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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Changing face of combat

Female officers increasingly emerge in leadership roles with infantry units

BY STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

The Army has been slowly integrating women into ground combat units since the Defense Department opened all military jobs to all troops in 2015. The initiative garnered a good deal of media attention for female "firsts" throughout the force. Now, five years later, women have expanded their footprint in combat arms and are taking command of units that have been exclusively male for centuries.

SEE COMBAT ON PAGE 4

Capt. Shaye Haver performs radio checks on Adazi Base, Latvia, in 2018. Captains Haver and Kristen Griest became the first women to graduate Ranger School in August 2015. A year later, Griest became the Army's first female infantry officer. Haver took command of a rifle company in 2018 and has since been promoted to major.

'The Army is changing, it's evolving, it's growing, we're making sure we have the best people for the job. That's it.'

Capt. Candice Bowen
Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

DUSTIN D. BIVEN/U.S. Army



Air Force pilot to take on AI team in simulated dogfight

BY JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force will pit an experienced F-16 fighter pilot in a toe-to-toe virtual reality dogfight for the first time against artificial intelligence as part of a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency event on Thursday.

The AlphaDogFight Trials consists of three days of cyberspace competition,

during which eight AI teams will determine which of their programs will face the human pilot, a DARPA statement said. The event will be livestreamed, with commentary from agency officials.

"We are still excited to see how the AI algorithms perform against each other as well as a Weapons School-trained human and hope that fighter pilots from across the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, as well

LIVESTREAMING FROM LAB

The AlphaDogFight Trials will air via livestream as a ZoomGov webinar from the Johns Hopkins laboratory in Laurel, Md. The three-day event is scheduled to conclude Thursday, featuring the final human versus artificial intelligence dogfight.

as military leaders and members of the AI tech community will register and watch online," Col. Dan Javorek, program manager in DARPA's Strategic Technology Office, said in the statement.

During the trials, the audience will see dogfights in real time and hear experts and guests from the Control Zone, akin to a

SEE DOGFIGHT ON PAGE 6

BUSINESS/WEATHER

US productivity rises as hours worked go down

By Matt Ott
Associated Press

SILVER SPRING, Md. — U.S. productivity rose at a 7.3% rate in the second quarter as the number of hours worked fell by nearly half, the biggest drop-off since the government started tracking the data more than 70 years ago.

The Labor Department said Friday that output decreased 38.9%, also the biggest decline ever recorded as hours worked fell 43%, with the coronavirus

pandemic sowing economic damage throughout the U.S.

The increase in productivity was the largest gain since 2009. Labor costs also jumped, rising 12.2%.

Friday's report is the first estimate of productivity in the second quarter and follows the first quarter's decline of 0.3%. The rise in labor costs, the largest jump since 2014, also follows a 9.8% increase in the January-March quarter.

Defined as the amount of out-

put per hour of work, productivity is the key to rising living standards, and the slow pace of growth in recent years has been a major reason that wage gains have stalled. Productivity mostly lagged during the record long 11-year expansion that followed the Great Recession, confounding economists.

Economists have warned that the economic disruptions caused by the coronavirus would likely hinder productivity in coming quarters.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 17)	\$1.15
Dollar buys (Aug. 17)	60.8239
British pound (Aug. 17)	\$1.28
Japanese yen (Aug. 17)	104.00
South Korean won (Aug. 17)	1,156.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3091
Canada (Dollar)	1.3257
China (Yuan)	6.9503
Denmark (Krone)	6.2510
Egypt (Pound)	15.9297
Euro	\$1.1838/0.8447
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7509
Hungary (Forint)	292.65
Israel (Shekel)	3.4061
Japan (Yen)	106.60
Norway (Krone)	8.8870
Philippines (Peso)	48.71
Poland (Zloty)	3.72
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7502
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3707
South Korea (Won)	1,187.13

Switzerland (Franc)	0.9094
Thailand (Baht)	31.10
Turkey (Lira)	7.3621

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.10
30-year bond	1.42

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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MILITARY

DOD report finds failing mental health care

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Thousands of troops and family members may not have access to the mental health care they need through their military or approved civilian health providers, a new Pentagon report says.

The Defense Department Inspector General found patients seeking outpatient mental health treatment often experienced delays or never obtained care at all due to inconsistencies in standards, inadequate staffing, outdated provider information and other shortcomings in the military's health system.

In 2017, almost 14% of troops were diagnosed with a mental health disorder, or just over 200,000.

Delays in getting those service members care could affect readiness, prevent deployment and jeopardize patient safety, the report said.

Military service, especially combat, "may carry a psychological cost for DOD members and the families who support them," auditors said. The department "has the responsibility to effectively identify and treat all mental health conditions through a consistent standard of care."

But the Pentagon appears to be falling short of that goal, according to auditors, who examined appointment booking and referral data at 13 military treatment facilities from December 2018 to June 2019.

An average of 53% of all service members and their families served by Tricare in the United States did not receive mental health care after getting a referral, the report published Wednesday found. Health officials in charge of tracking their care could not say why, the IG said.

The report determined that the department isn't meeting the legal and DOD policy requirements for outpatient mental

health care. It failed to consistently ensure that wait times for urgent care didn't exceed 24 hours, that waits for routine visits didn't exceed one week and that specialty care after a referral takes place no more than a month later.

At one clinic included in the audit, troops and their families waited an average of 79 days for a psychiatry appointment off-base after receiving a Tricare referral.

Concerns with the Tricare network have been ongoing for nearly two decades, the report said.

Patients have reported an inability to get appointments; provider lists that are outdated and referrals to the wrong types of providers, among other shortcomings.

Adequate staffing was also a problem. A mental health director at one facility said access to psychotherapy is "systematically below the standard of care" because the clinic was only able to provide monthly

sessions, when weekly or more frequent sessions may have been more beneficial, the report said.

The staff said they instead provided safety checks when they couldn't meet treatment guidelines, according to the report.

To help remedy the problems, the IG recommended that an eight-visit limitation for outpatient mental health care be removed, to which the Defense Health Agency agreed in a response to the report.

Health officials also agreed to develop a single systemwide staffing approach that estimates the number of appointments and personnel required to meet the demand for mental health.

The agency will also establish a standard process for mental health assessments tailored to patients' needs, officials said in their response.

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Okinawa's 3rd Marine Division gets new leader

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Maj. Gen. James Bierman Jr., a veteran infantry commander with combat experience in Iraq and Afghanistan, took command Thursday of the 3rd Marine Division, the service's only continuously deployed division, during a ceremony at Camp Courtney.

Bierman arrives from Quantico, Va., where he led Marine Corps Recruiting Command. He takes over from Maj. Gen. William Jurney, who improved discipline and readiness within the division during two years on the job, according to a Marine Corps news release.

Bierman previously served within the 3rd Marine Division, nicknamed the Caltrap Division, as commander of both 3rd Marines and 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines. A caltrap, an ancient, four-pronged anti-cavalry device, is the division insignia.

"I'm honored to rejoin 3rd Marine Division and follow in the footsteps of Maj. Gen. Bill Jurney," Bierman said, according to the release. "Under his leadership, the Division has truly excelled. ... Going forward, Caltrap will remain ready to fight and win anywhere on short notice, while continuing to move the ball forward on critical experimentation and innovation efforts."

The 3rd Marine Division is part of the III Marine Expeditionary Force and includes the 3rd Marine Regiment on Hawaii and the 4th and 12th regiments on Okinawa, as well as the 3rd Expeditionary Brigade and other units, according to a Marine Corps organization chart.

It also includes rotational units through the Unit Deployment Program.

The main job of the division, which is supported by the 1st Marine Air Wing, is amphibious assault.

Bierman was born in Camp Lejeune, N.C., and graduated from the Virginia Military Institute, according to his Marine Corps biography. He was commissioned as an officer in 1987.

He previously commanded Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, as well as 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines and the 3rd Marine Regiment, according to his official biography.

Over a career of 30-plus years, Bierman has also seen service in the Persian Gulf, the Mediterranean and Somalia, according to a statement released when he assumed the recruiting command in June 2018.

In addition to a Bronze Star with combat distin-



JOHN MARTINEZ JR./U.S. Marine Corps

Maj. Gen. James Bierman Jr., pictured here in June 2018, took command of the 3rd Marine Division during a ceremony at Camp Courtney, Okinawa, on Thursday.

guishing device and two gold stars, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a gold star, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star and the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, according to his biography.

In high-level staff jobs, Bierman served as military secretary to Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James Amos and on the Joint Staff as deputy director for political-military affairs for the Middle East, strategic plans and policy direction, his biography states.

Next month, Jurney will take command of the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., according to Thursday's Marine statement.

During his tenure, he implemented future force concepts like the integration of long-range precision fire, according to the release.

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Due to virus, smaller RIMPAC drills begin

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — SCALD-down Rimp of the Pacific maritime drills kick off Monday in Hawaiian waters, significantly reduced in size, length and scope due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Ten countries and 20 ships are participating in the biennial exercise, to be held all at sea over two weeks, said Cmdr. John Page, spokesman for the U.S. Navy's 3rd Fleet.

That is a substantial decrease from the 26 nations, 47 surface ships and five submarines that joined the drills two years ago.

Vice Adm. Scott Conn, commander of U.S. Navy's 3rd Fleet, will announce which countries are participating on Monday.

Running to Aug. 31, the exercise's at-sea-only drills will include "antisubmarine warfare, maritime intercept operation, live-fire training events and other cooperative training opportunities," according to a 3rd Fleet statement.

"A minimal footprint of staff will be ashore for command and control, logistics, and other support functions," the statement said. "All other personnel participating in RIMPAC are doing so at sea."

About 5,300 people will take part in the exercise, Page said.

In 2018, 25,000 personnel attended from the nations of Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, South Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, Vietnam, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The USS Essex, an amphibious assault ship, arrived Monday at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and will participate in RIMPAC.

Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono told reporters last month that the country's Maritime Self-Defense Force will send the JS Ashigara, a guided-missile destroyer, and the JS Ise, a helicopter destroyer.

Australian Defense Minister Linda Reynolds said last month that a naval task group would attend, with ships selected from a half-dozen that went to sea in June.

Past RIMPAC drills have included significant portions on the Hawaiian Islands and off the coast of Southern California. The Marine Corps has culminated its training in the past with large and complex amphibious landings on the east side of Oahu.

In 2018, the exercise included two ship-sinking exercises. Staged at Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands on Kauai Island, the U.S. Army and Air Force and the Japanese Self-Defense Force sank a ship with an assault that included planes, helicopters, missiles and rockets.

RIMPAC has served as an economic boom for Hawaii in the past, bringing in thousands of visitors, hotels filled to capacity and millions of dollars.

Since last spring, the state has required all visitors to quarantine for 14 days after arrival. In early July, Gov. David Ige announced plans to ease that restriction on Aug. 1 by allowing visitors to skip quarantine if they tested negative for the virus before travel.

But that plan was postponed after an uptick in community spread of the virus in the last half of July.

The state has had 4,312 confirmed cases of the virus and 40 deaths as of Thursday, according to the Hawaii Department of Health.

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MILITARY

Combat: Women make more moves into infantry roles

FROM FRONT PAGE

Capt. Candice Bowen took command of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, last month. She is one of the first Black women to take command of a rifle company in the National Guard and the first female infantry commander in Virginia. The company's history traces back to Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson's brigade.

"I think in general people have their own perceptions of what a female officer is going to be. It's 'Maybe women shouldn't be in combat arms,' but at the end of the day, a capable soldier is a capable soldier," Bowen said. "The Army is changing, it's evolving, it's growing, we're making sure we have the best people for the job. That's it. As long as the standards don't change, let the best person compete."

Gender integration into combat arms kicked off in August 2015 when captains Kristen Grist and Shaye Haver became the first women to graduate Ranger School, one of the most grueling military courses in the world. A year later, Grist became the Army's first female infantry officer. Haver took command of a rifle company in the 82nd Airborne Division in 2018, and she has since been promoted to major.

"Possibly going into combat arms is a daunting thing to look at; it's a dirty, thankless job and you're required to do bad things to bad people and that is not for everyone. But sometimes you're too hard on yourself thinking you cannot do those things," Haver said in a panel discussion at West Point in 2018. "When I have conversations with other females about going into combat arms and if I hear anything other than they want to get after it, it's disappointing. If you're not going into the infantry because you truly want to lead men and women to close with and destroy the enemy, which is our job, then you don't need to do that."

'Leaders First'

Bowen, 31, commissioned as a military police officer in 2012. She deployed to Qatar with 3rd Battalion in 2016 and after her return, immediately went to Afghanistan with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, where she earned her combat action badge. She was the first woman to join the military to switch to infantry in 2019 after Virginia scaled-down military police forces.

Her move to infantry was amid the Army's "Leaders First" effort, which started in 2016. The goal was to place female leaders in combat units ahead of junior enlisted women joining the ranks. Critics of the policy and even the Army have said the measure slowed down gender integration. All leaders start as newly recruited privates, but privates couldn't necessarily be assigned to a combat unit without a woman in a leadership role, meaning the military had to entice female officers and NCOs to switch jobs. Gender



TERRA C. GUTTS/U.S. Army National Guard

Capt. Candice Bowen (center) takes command of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, at a ceremony. She is the Virginia National Guard's first infantry commander, and one of the first black female combat arms officers in the Army.



Capt. Amie Kempainen

Capt. Amie Kempainen, commander of B Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Infantry Regiment, is shown at a training event. She is the Michigan National Guard's first woman infantry commander.

integration has been slowed by not having enough female infantry and armor leaders available, according to a statement from the Army in June. Promising female officers have been encouraged to switch from support to infantry, armor or cavalry. But the Army found that only a tiny fraction of female officers and NCOs were interested in joining the infantry or armor fields. The policy shifted to companies only being required to have female ES of any military job to be in a unit before junior enlisted women can join the ranks.

"I understand there are very few women in combat arms, but

we need more people in combat arms period. [Women enlisting] is as big of an issue as people decide it is. We want the best soldiers for the job," Bowen said.

Women are still a minority in the Army, and especially in combat arms. Women make up just 14% of the Army's enlisted and 19% of its officer corps, according to 2018 data from the Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S. foreign policy think tank. The Marine Corps has the fewest number of women, with 8% enlisted and 9% officers.

The Army as a whole is predominantly male; it's not new to be one of the only females in a

"I think in general people have their own perceptions of what a female officer is going to be ... but at the end of the day, a capable soldier is a capable soldier."

Capt. Candice Bowen
U.S. Army National Guard

group," said Capt. Amie Kempainen, an Iraq War veteran.

Kempainen, 46, took command of B Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Infantry Regiment, in March. She is the first woman in the Michigan National Guard to command an infantry company. She joined the infantry after 25 years of service in support units.

"I probably wasn't what people thought would be the ideal candidate. Physically, you've got to hold your own, male or female, and lead from the front," she said.

Thrust into combat

The decision to open combat arms came after nearly two decades of post-9/11 wars, where women were thrust into combat for the first time on a large scale due to the nature of the conflicts. The lines blurred between combat and support units, and the traditional front line was erased by an insurgency that could take the fight to American troops anywhere. In previous wars, men in combat arms units usually held the front.

The breaking point for the Defense Department came in 2012 when a lawsuit was filed by Army Reservists, Command Sgt. Maj. Jane Baldwin and Col. Ellen Haring, accusing the government of violating the constitutional rights

of women by excluding them from ground combat units solely due to gender, and arguing that the ban hinders careers.

"This limitation on plaintiffs' careers restricts their current and future earnings, their potential for promotion and advancement, and their future retirement benefits," the women said in the suit filed in U.S. District Court.

Women have been playing a major role in ground combat for years. However, until recently, women have had to stick to support roles. When the ban was lifted, women could enlist and commission into roles that are exclusively combat-focused, such as special forces, infantry and cavalry units.

"To me, it wasn't so much a real change, it was the policy catching up with reality. Women becoming actual infantrymen is a change," said Kayla Williams, an Iraq War veteran and senior fellow and director of the Military, Veterans and Society Program at the Center for a New American Security, a national security think tank. "It was driven by what has been happening already."

Williams served as a linguist in the 101st Airborne during the invasion of Iraq. She said it is

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MILITARY

FROM PAGE 4

critical to have women to talk to and search female civilians on Middle East battlefields.

"It was a combination that women were needed in these positions, women were excelling in combat, and there was recognition from the public that no one freaked out that women were dying in combat. ... We've had women killed in World War II, but the type of jobs they were doing were generally not happening on the scale they are now. ... In Vietnam there was a relatively small number of women as a percent, the majority of them were nurses. It was traumatic, some of them were killed."

Now, there are 680 enlisted women in the active Army serving as infantry, tankers or cavalry scouts, and 260 officers. There are 55,000 enlisted men in the infantry and 7,000 officers. On the armor and cavalry side, there are 18,000 males enlisted and 3,000 officers, according to the most recent data from the Defense Department.

The numbers are much smaller in the National Guard: There are 37 enlisted infantry women (28,524 men), 11 cavalry scouts (4,842 men), eight tankers (1,619 men), and none serving in mortars, where there are 2,950 men. The Guard has 26 female infantry officers (3,560 men) and 22 armor/cavalry officers (1,124 men), according to the National Guard Bureau.

However, 2020 is the first year the National Guard saw female officers leave combat arms. Last year there were 33 female infantry officers and 27 in armor. But this year could be an outlier since the Guard saw its first wave of women commission into armor and infantry in late 2016, seven in each branch, the number roughly doubled.

The Marine Corps is an entirely different story. There are no female officers across the entire branch, but two have graduated from the Corps' infantry officer course. The Marine Corps has the smallest number of personnel in the military and the smallest number of female officers. Of the nearly 22,000 officers in the Marine Corps, as of May, only 1,877 are women, according to the Defense Department.

Initial concerns

Kemppainen said there was skepticism when she showed up to her infantry company as a platoon leader, restarting her career after initially enlisting in 1994.

"The real goal was that the only real way to earn command was to start from the beginning," she said.

Part of integrating is making it clear things in an infantry unit will operate as they always have, Kemppainen said. But the initial concerns on her arrival to what had been a male-only regiment for nearly 200 years were mostly skepticism that any new lieutenant would face.

"The biggest reward for me was guys who were skeptical because my biggest allies and supporters," she said. "It was necessary to prove I can hack it physically. But that is also the same with men."



Capt. Emily Lilly was the National Guard's first female graduate of Ranger School, and was in the first group of women to graduate armor officer school.

There were a few logistical and cultural speedbumps, but Kemppainen said they were mostly a nonissue.

"There were conversations of where a female sleeps, whether in the barracks or field. Those were some new conversations we had to have. What we did was try to approach it as business as usual and not make it a big deal," she said. "There was one time we were in the barracks. I was reading the Ranger Handbook and some of the guys were playing cards, cutting jokes, messing with each other. One of them said something, there was a pregnant pause and they waited for my reaction. I fired something back and it was then clear it was business as usual. ... as soon as they realized that was true and not lip service, we never had a problem."

Capt. Emily Lilly also made the jump to combat arms from her original support role. Lilly is a North Carolina Guard armor officer with the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, which is deployed to the Middle East. She originally branched as an ordnance officer in 2013, but quickly switched to combat arms and was in the first group of women to graduate armor officer school in December 2016. She graduated Ranger School in 2018.

"I wanted to do cool stuff. My grandfather was a cavalry officer," she said. "He commissioned in 1936. ... When WWII broke out, he trained as a tankier at Fort Knox and headed to North Africa and then Sicily as an armor company commander."

Lilly, 41, said being in the first group of female officers to join armor and cavalry units led to a lot of media attention. She said there are "definitely some guys behind the times," but she was fortunate to have great leaders through her career who supported her. However, her trailblazing sparked a



2nd Lt. Colleen O'Callaghan graduated Army officer infantry school. She is the first woman officer in the Ohio National Guard to lead an infantry platoon.

series of crude remarks online. "We definitely got our share of negative attention on social media," Lilly said. "I remember one comment on an article on the first 13 women armor officers' in which someone commented,

"more like the next 13 women in the Army to get pregnant."

"Four years later, many of us have been made captain, we've done combat deployments and completed tough schools, but none of us got pregnant."

No segregation

2nd Lt. Colleen O'Callaghan serves in 2nd Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. She recently returned from a civil disturbance mission in the White House area.

She is the Ohio National Guard's first female infantry platoon leader, but she said all her issues were related to men being almost uncomfortably respectful.

"I think the biggest thing women run into is people trying to do the right thing, but they do the wrong thing," O'Callaghan said. "It's more of the [junior soldiers] being afraid of doing something that'll make me uncomfortable, I think they're afraid of bringing down a ... complaint."

O'Callaghan, 27, said a routine occurrence is when someone is talking to a group of officers, giving the regular courtesy of addressing the group as "gentlemen," then quickly correcting themselves by adding "and ma'am."

"I don't care if people call me a gentleman, or sir," she said. "It's not necessary to call out the one woman."

O'Callaghan expressed some frustration of early efforts to segregate her from her troops in barracks, saying getting her own space during training was detrimental to her ability to lead. Where the Ohio Guard often trains, at Camp Atterbury, Ind., the barracks for soldiers offer no privacy, and gender-specific bathrooms and showers are virtually nonexistent.

"I don't think there should be any segregations, if you're in a platoon you're in a platoon and should not be apart," she said. "I usually say I want to use the shower at a certain time and just make sure that's cleared. It isn't much of an issue."

But some women are concerned that a sizable chunk of men are not ready for female leadership in combat, saying the masculine culture prevalent in the Army has vastly outdated views on women.

"The biggest issue that I don't think I would have faced as a man is the negative reactions to decisiveness," said a junior Army support officer who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "As a female in the military, you're either a pushover or a bitch, there's no in-between. If I were a man, I'd be the fearless leader — the alpha. As a woman, I'm cocky, I'm the bitch. I'm the one who is a stickler. Having a voice as a female in a male-dominated field is difficult enough, but once you find your voice, you still can't win."

The junior Army officer recently saw another woman take command of an infantry company, and she said most of the male feedback was "pretty standard," saying some of the soldiers are "sexist for the sake of power dynamics ... needing the boys club to remain."

"Most men are like 'as long as she met the same standards' but they fail to realize that comment in and of itself is dripping in sexism," she said. "They wouldn't ask that of an incoming male commander, they just assume he has."

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MILITARY

Scaled-back US, S. Korea joint training resumes

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and South Korea will begin annual joint military exercises this week, but they will be reduced in scope due to a spike in coronavirus cases, officials said Sunday.

The announcement came as South Korea reported 279 new confirmed coronavirus cases, the highest daily count since early March and the third consecutive day with triple digit figures.

The drills, a linchpin of the alliance between the two nations, already have been cut back since 2018 as part of U.S.-led efforts to facilitate nuclear talks with North Korea.

But this year, the pandemic also is limiting the number of American soldiers and evaluators being brought to the peninsula from abroad, officials said.

Maintaining readiness

The computer-simulated combined command post training drill will be held from Tuesday through Aug. 28 "while taking into consideration the COVID-19 situation," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

"This drill will focus on maintaining the joint defense posture," the JCS said.

The allies also will do a practice run of the future combined command structure after wartime operational control, which is cur-

rently held by the Americans, is returned to South Korea, it said, without providing more details.

An expedited transfer of operational control, or OPCON, is a key priority of South Korean President Moon Jae-in's administration.

It had been planned for 2015 but was made conditions-based and delayed indefinitely amid rising tensions with the North.

The summertime exercise had been due to kick off Sunday but was pushed back after a South Korean Army officer who was supposed to participate tested positive for the virus Friday, the Yonhap News Agency reported, citing military officials.

Coronavirus concerns

Both militaries have been hit by the virus. Some 80 South Korean soldiers have been infected since the initial outbreak began in late February.

U.S. Forces Korea has had 152 confirmed cases, including 128 service members and other personnel who tested positive after traveling to the South from abroad.

The influx prompted local authorities and activists in Gyeonggi province, which includes the main Army base Camp Humphreys, to call for the exercise to be canceled.

Dozens of protesters staged a demonstration outside Camp Humphreys on Friday, prompting the garrison to close one of its main gates for about three hours.

"We want the two countries to cease plans for the drill," said An Hye Young of the Korean Confederation of Trade Union, which or-

ganized the protest.

"COVID-19 can spread in the crowded training areas," she said. "Conducting the exercise also may worsen inter-Korean ties."

Seoul and Washington canceled plans to hold annual springtime drills in March as the virus was beginning its global spread.

The allies have curtailed many other previous exercises since President Donald Trump first said he was halting them following his June 2018 summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

North Korea factor

North Korea usually lashes out against the joint exercises, which it considers rehearsals for an invasion, despite U.S. and South Korean claims that they are defensive in nature.

The communist state responded to last year's drills with a series of missile and artillery tests as diplomatic efforts deadlocked over disagreements about the extent of sanctions relief in exchange for steps toward disarmament.

USFK, which commands some 28,500 American troops, said it views "training as routine and continuously executed by all professional militaries to maintain trust, proficiency and readiness."

Gen. Robert Abrams, the USFK commander, and other officials have said American forces have adjusted to reductions with modified training events to maintain fighting capabilities.

The command declined to comment on the upcoming exercise. "As a matter of USFK policy,



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

South Korean police stand guard during a protest Friday outside Camp Humphreys, South Korea.

we do not publicly comment on planned or executed training but rather view training as routine and continuously executed by all professional militaries to maintain trust, proficiency and readiness," the public affairs office said.

However, analysts have raised concerns that exercise cutbacks threaten the alliance's military readiness at a critical time as the North has continued to develop its weapons.

"I would argue that the joint force on the Korean Peninsula has already lost a small to medium-sized degree of operational capability," said Harry Kazianis, senior director of Korean studies at the Center for the National Interest, a conservative Washington, D.C.-based think tank.

"The U.S. and (South Korea) can have all the F-35s, smart weapons and top-tier command and control systems that money

can buy," he said. "But if they are not trained in the art of fighting a war together under at least simulated battlefield conditions, even an old and debilitated North Korean conventional force could create problems—and kill tens of thousands of allied personnel."

The drills also will take place against the backdrop of tensions between the allies themselves, as Seoul and Washington have been unable to reach a new defense cost-sharing agreement.

The previous deal, known as the Special Measures Agreement, expired at the end of last year as the South rejected Trump's demand for a multibillion-dollar increase. Some 28,500 American troops are stationed in South Korea, which technically remains at war with the North after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report. gamel.kim@stars.com

Dogfight: Aerial battle competition resembles virtual reality video game

FROM FRONT PAGE

TV sports commentary desk.

The competition is like an aerial dogfighting video game in which one player is a human and the other is an AI agent, Col. Dan Javorek, program manager in DARPA's Strategic Technology Office, said Wednesday in an email to Stars and Stripes. The human pilot will sit in an F-16 simulator wearing virtual reality goggles to provide a realistic cockpit view for the engagement.

They will face off in a series of dogfights with variable starting conditions to ensure an even contest, Javorek said. Each aircraft will start with a full set of health points.

During the dogfight, the pilots maneuver to place their weapons zone on the oppo-

nent's aircraft, reducing health points. The engagement ends when either one aircraft is out of health points or time expires.

The first day of the competition will feature each of the eight teams flying their algorithms against five adversary AI algorithms developed by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, the statement said.

On the second day, the teams will fly against one another in a round-robin tournament before competing in a single elimination tournament on day three. The eventual champion will face the human F-16 pilot.

AlphaDogFight Trials was supposed to take place before a live audience at AFWERX, a Las Vegas and development program at Res Tech, with fighter pilots from

the Air Forces Weapons School at nearby Nellis Air Force Base taking part.

However, the coronavirus pandemic forced the event online and all three days will instead be livestreamed on multiple channels as a ZoomGov webinar from the Johns Hopkins laboratory in Laurel, Md., where the pilot will be participating.

The goal of the competition is to demonstrate advanced AI algorithms capable of performing "simulated within-visual-range air combat maneuvering," or dogfighting, the statement said.

The agency is looking for AI technology that can collaborate with humans, according to a DARPA website dedicated to its Air Combat Evolution program. Setting a dogfight as a problem challenges the designers to produce something that can be trusted

to work on its own in combat. Dogfighting is also an "entry point" into the world of complex human-machine collaboration.

Prime viewing is scheduled 1:30-3:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Thursday, with remarks from Javorek and other DARPA officials, recaps of the previous days' activities and scores, and the final human versus AI dogfight.

"Regardless of whether the human or machine wins the final dogfight, the AlphaDogFight Trials is all about increasing trust in AI," Javorek said in the statement. "If the champion AI earns the respect of an F-16 pilot, we'll have come one step closer to achieving effective human-machine teaming in air combat, which is the goal of the ACE program."

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US military in Japan reports 7 new virus cases as Tokyo again sees triple digits

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — For the first time in days, the number of new coronavirus cases reported by Japan's capital dipped below 300 on Sunday, the final day of a long holiday weekend called Obon.

Meanwhile, U.S. military installations across the country announced seven new infections

over the weekend.

Tokyo recorded 260 coronavirus cases on Sunday, according to report by national broadcaster as a HK citing city officials. Most of the new patients are in their 20s and 30s.

The city logged 385 new cases Saturday and 389 on Saturday, the highest number recorded

there since Aug. 9, according to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. The record for new infections reported by the city on one day is 472 on Aug. 1.

On Saturday, the Navy announced that three people at Sasebo Naval Base on Japan's Kyushu island had tested positive. All were in quarantine when their

infections were confirmed, a base statement said. They will remain isolated until they recover.

Marine Corps Installations Pacific announced four new cases on Okinawa over the weekend — three on Saturday and one on Sunday.

The infections reported Saturday are associated with Camp

Courtney, site of a recent cluster outbreak, a Marine statement said.

One of the new patients had been identified as a close contact of someone infected in that cluster. The others work at the Camp Courtney chow hall, which was closed temporarily for deep cleaning.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Military families living in Germany bumped from flights to Greece

BY KARIN ZEITVOGEL
Stars and Stripes

Tara Krause's kids were "super-excited" about the family's trip to Greece, the 35-year-old said, but their excitement turned to disappointment when ground staff at Frankfurt-Hahn airport barred the U.S. military family from traveling because of coronavirus restrictions.

"They told us, 'No, you can't fly,' and they said it's because we're American," Krause told Stars and Stripes last week. "One of my 9-year-old twins cried herself to sleep that night."

Krause, her husband Michael, a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force, and their three children were at the airport for their flight to Kefalonia, an island south of Corfu in the Ionian Sea.

The Ramstein-based family presented staff at the check-in desk with the QR code they received after filling out an online form required by the Greek government for entry into the country, their passports, which included Status of Forces Agreement stamps, a utility bill and other paperwork to show they lived in Germany, Krause said.

"They looked at everything and said we needed proof that we're legal residents," she said.

Greece had changed its rules the night before because of the rising number of coronavirus

cases in the country, Ryanair staff told the Krauses. The family and around a dozen other Americans who were trying to travel that day, including other airmen and families, were told they "had to have German residency cards" to travel to Greece, Krause said.

"But that's basically what our SOFA stamp is," she said.

Active-duty service members assigned to Germany only need their military ID cards and NATO or travel orders to prove they reside legally in the country, while their family members, Defense Department civilians and contractors require a SOFA certificate in their passports as proof of residency, a document on Ramstein's website says.

Ryanair said in a statement sent to Stars and Stripes that the Americans had been barred from traveling "as per the current Greek Govt restrictions regarding non-EU nationals."

"As a result of COVID-19, Greece has a ban on non-essential travel from the US," the statement said. The low-cost airline did not reply to an email pointing out that the Americans' travel originated in Germany.

Greece recently tightened restrictions after a surge in coronavirus cases, which it blamed in large part on travelers coming into the country. The popular tourist destination reopened its borders to visitors July 1 after

weeks of strict lockdown helped bring the virus under control.

The Greek consulate in Berlin referred Stars and Stripes to the reopen-europe website, which says travel is allowed to Greece from all EU countries, with the exceptions of Bulgaria, Romania and Malta, which have high numbers of coronavirus cases. The website does not mention travelers' nationalities, only where they are traveling from.

But a Greek government rule dated Aug. 11 says only EU nationals and citizens of European countries like Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, which have travel agreements with the EU, can enter Greece on unofficial travel.

That rule, which has been in effect since the country started reopening to tourists, has been applied haphazardly.

One American family posted on Facebook that they had flown on Ryanair from another Frankfurt airport to Mykonos on Thursday.

They had "no issues," Destin Beckworth said. At least eight other military families were on the same flight.

Other military families told Krause after she shared her family's misadventure on Facebook that they'd also recently traveled to Greece with Ryanair, although not from Hahn airport.

But an American family from Wiesbaden said they were barred



MICHAEL KRAUSE

Tara Krause, twins Penelope, left, and Susan, and 5-year-old Amelia pose outside their home near Ramstein Air Base in Germany before a road trip to Italy. Last week, low-cost airline Ryanair barred the Krauses from flying to Greece from Frankfurt-Hahn airport, citing Greek government restrictions on travelers coming from the U.S., even though the Krauses live in Germany.

from boarding a Ryanair flight to Greece from Baden-Baden airport.

And a day after the Krauses, Alisha Bell and her family were told they couldn't fly from Hahn to Chania, on Crete. They, too, were told it was "because we were U.S. citizens," Bell said.

"I and other families who were being denied travel called the (Greek) Embassy and they said we were allowed in the country," Bell said. "But one lady at Ryanair, the supervisor, said it was Ryanair policy."

Neither the Bells nor the Krauses have been offered refunds by Ryanair.

The Bells headed to the Netherlands for their vacation.

The Krauses "didn't unpack when we got back from Hahn," Tara Krause said. They ended up driving to northern Italy.

"I said to my family, 'We're going somewhere,' and my husband was like, 'that's fine, but we're not flying.'"

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Georgia governor allows limited local mask mandates

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Georgia's governor, who has opposed local mask mandates and even sued one in Atlanta, has signed a new executive order that allows local governments to enact mask requirements to help fight the coronavirus pandemic.

As with previous orders, the one issued Saturday says residents and visitors of the state are "strongly encouraged" to wear face coverings when they are outside of their homes, except when eating, drinking or exercising outside. But unlike previous orders, this one allows local governments in counties that have reached a "threshold" requirement to require the wearing of masks on government-owned property.

A county meets that threshold requirement if it has had 100 or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people over the previous 14 days. Only two of Georgia's 159 counties were below that threshold, according to data from the state Department of Public Health.

Local mask mandates cannot result in an fines, fees or penalties against private businesses or organizations, and penalties against individuals for non-compliance

cannot include a fine greater than \$50 and cannot include prison time, the order says. If people are not in compliance, local authorities must warn them "about the health risks posed by not wearing a face mask or face covering" prior to issuing a citation.

"This order also protects Georgia businesses from government overreach by restricting the application and enforcement of local masking requirements to public property," Gov. Brian Kemp said in a news release accompanying the order, which is in effect through Aug. 31. Additionally, the order extends shelter-in-place requirements for people who meet certain criteria that result in "higher risk of severe illness."

It also continues to ban gatherings larger than 50 people if people are closer than 6 feet apart and imposes specific operating guidelines on bars, restaurants and other businesses.

Kemp, a Republican, last month sued Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, a Democrat, and the Atlanta City Council after Bottoms made statements that the governor said some interpreted as orders for restaurants to close and ordered masks. Kemp dropped the lawsuit Thursday.

Stars and Stripes has partnered with the Association of Military Spouse Entrepreneurs on the first-ever

Military Spouse Entrepreneur Guide!

Pick up the guide on **August 20th** at a base near you!



You can also check it out online at stripes.com!

VIRUS OUTBREAK



Scott Atlas, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, left, and White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany, center, arrive ahead of President Donald Trump for a news conference at the White House.

Trump makes call for new White House doctor's advice

By JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has found a new doctor for his coronavirus task force — and this time there's no daylight between them.

Trump last week announced that Dr. Scott Atlas, a frequent guest on Fox News Channel, has joined the White House as a pandemic adviser. Atlas, the former chief of neuroaudiology at Stanford University Medical Center and a fellow at Stanford's conservative Hoover Institution, has no expertise in public health or infectious diseases.

But he has long been a critic of coronavirus lockdowns and has campaigned for kids to return to the classroom and for the return of college sports, just like Trump. "Scott is a very famous man who's also very highly respected," Trump told reporters as he introduced the addition. "He has many great ideas and he thinks what we've done is really good."

Atlas' hiring comes amid ongoing tensions between the presi-

dent and Drs. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious diseases expert, and Deborah Birx, the task force's coordinator. While Birx remains closely involved in the administration's pandemic response, both she and Fauci have publicly contradicted the rose picture the president has painted of a virus that has now killed more than 169,000 people in the United States and infected millions nationwide.

Atlas, the sole doctor to share the stage at Trump's pandemic briefings last week, has long questioned policies that have been embraced by public health experts both in the U.S. and abroad. He has called it a "good thing" for younger, healthier people to be exposed to the virus, while falsely claiming children are at near "zero risk."

In an April op-ed in The Hill newspaper, Atlas said lockdowns may have prevented the development of "natural herd immunity."

"In the absence of immunization, society needs circulation of the virus, assuming high-risk

people can be isolated," he wrote.

In television appearances, Atlas has called on the nation to "get a grip" and argued that "there's nothing wrong" with having low-risk people get infected, as long as the vulnerable are protected.

"It doesn't matter if younger, healthier people get infected. I don't know how often that has to be said. They have nearly zero risk of a problem from this," he said in one appearance. "When younger, healthier people get infected, that's a good thing," he went on to say, "because that's exactly the way that population immunity develops."

While younger people are certainly at far lower risk of developing serious complications from the virus, they can still spread it to others who may be more vulnerable, even when they have no symptoms. And while their chances of dying are slim, some do face severe complications, with one study finding that 35% of young adults had not returned to normal health two weeks to three weeks after testing positive.

that in a positive light," Romney added.

At least 166,000 people nationwide have died of coronavirus-related complications — about 21% of the worldwide death toll. An additional 1,222 U.S. deaths were reported Friday and 1,218 were reported Saturday as of late evening.

Romney said the administration did not "ring all the alarm bells" early on in the pandemic. He faulted officials for failing to put the federal government in charge of distributing personal protective equipment, manufacturing essential supplies and setting guidelines for businesses.

"From the outset, there was a tendency on the part of the administration to dismiss COVID-19 as a threat, not to consider how

serious it could become," he said, referring to the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. "The health impact of COVID-19 on our country and our response to it was really very, very disappointing."

This was not the first time Romney has accused the administration of mismanaging the pandemic. In mid-May, he criticized the Trump administration's early coronavirus testing rollout, saying the administration had "treated water" during February and March and that its actions were "nothing to celebrate."

President Donald Trump has defended the response, noting at a Thursday news conference that the administration had tapped manufacturers to increase production of masks, ventilators and other equipment.

USFK restrictions return as cases rise in S. Korea

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — As coronavirus cases spiked in South Korea, the U.S. military said it would reimpose restrictions nationwide effective Monday, including health checks at access gates, limited access to base stores and minimum essential staffing at work.

The reversal came Sunday as South Korea's number of confirmed cases reached triple digits for the third day in a row.

U.S. Forces Korea, which commands some 28,500 troops, announced Saturday that it was raising the health protection level to "Charlie" for Seoul and surrounding areas.

The commander of Camp Humphreys, the main Army garrison, said Sunday that was being extended for all bases on the divided peninsula, beginning at 5 a.m. Monday.

HPCON Charlie indicates an area is experiencing sustained community transmission, according to the Defense Department.

"We're absolutely going to minimum essential manning only," Col. Michael Tremblay said in a brief Facebook live appearance. "We're really hunkering down. We're minimizing our footprint based on the numbers that are going on in Seoul."

USFK has well-practiced measures to prevent the spread of the virus that were first imposed in late February as South Korea was an early epicenter of the pandemic.

The military only recently eased restrictions when the daily count declined to 50 or less for a protracted period, as the South was lauded for its strict testing and tracing procedures.

On Monday, soldiers will return to access gates to check temperatures and survey people on their health and risk level, Tremblay said.

He also said the number of people allowed into the commissary and PX at a single time would be limited.

"We want to protect our bubble," he said, promising more details in coming hours. "We're going back into a defensive position."

Masks were already required in public facilities and whenever it was impossible to maintain a safe distance on base.

Bars, clubs and other adult-only establishments have also remained off-limits in all areas.

No changes were immediately announced for Defense Department schools, which are due to reopen Aug. 24 in South Korea.

South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 279 new coronavirus

cases Sunday, the highest daily increase since early March.

It was the third consecutive day that the numbers reached triple digits, with 166 on Saturday and 103 on Friday, raising fears of another massive outbreak.

Most of the infections were linked to churches, a popular street market and other communal areas in Seoul and surrounding areas, but health authorities said it was becoming harder to control the virus.

Concern was also high that more people may have contracted the virus during a rally that drew thousands of anti-government protesters in Seoul who ignored official pleas to stay home.

USFK has reported that 153 affiliated personnel, including 105 service members, have tested positive for the virus — most as part of a mandatory testing and quarantine process for travelers arriving in the country. Only 24 of those, including two soldiers, contracted the virus on the peninsula, with the most recent in mid-April.

USFK put Seoul and surrounding areas back off-limits on Saturday, less than a week after the health alert level for the area dubbed "Area II+" had been lowered.

Many people already had traveled to the capital for the first time in months to enjoy the weekend, only to have to return home.

"This means all USFK-affiliated individuals can only travel to Area II+ for official and necessary duties. All other travel requires an exception to policy memo," signed by a colonel or equivalent civilian supervisor, USFK spokesman Col. Lee Peters said Friday in a video announcement.

He urged people to adhere to measures aimed at preventing the spread of the virus, including wearing masks when it's not possible to maintain a safe distance and washing hands frequently.

The Army's Yongsan Garrison in Seoul also restored protective measures that had been lifted, including closing all but two entry gates and resuming health checks before entry.

While the overall number of cases in South Korea, a nation of more than 51 million people, remained low compared to other countries, health authorities have consistently warned that cluster infections and imported cases threaten to reverse the progress.

South Korea has reported 15,318 cases since Jan. 20, with 305 deaths and 13,901 patients fully recovered.

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'No way to spin that,' Romney says of US deaths, blaming Trump administration

By DEREK HAWKINS
AND MARISA LATI
The Washington Post

Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, offered rare Republican criticism of the Trump administration's coronavirus response Friday, saying the federal government dismissed the virus's threat and failed to protect Americans as infections spiraled out of control.

"Short term, I think it's fair to say we really have not distinguished ourselves in a positive way by how we responded to the crisis when it was upon us," Romney said in a video interview with the Sutherland Institute. "And the proof of the pudding of that is simply that we have 5% of the world's population but 25% of the world's deaths due to COVID-19."

"And there's no way to spin

VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

Baby girl born in Dallas believed to be 1st to contract virus in womb

From wire reports

FORT WORTH, Texas — Doctors at Parkland Hospital in Dallas reported the first baby in the U.S. known to have contracted the coronavirus while in the womb.

Baby Alexa Figueroa tested positive for COVID-19 less than 24 hours after being delivered six weeks early by mother Wendy Figueroa on May 2, according to Star-Telegram media partner WFAA-TV.

Doctors delivered the baby prematurely after Wendy Figueroa tested positive when she was 34 weeks pregnant.

"We immediately separated baby from mother. Mom was wearing a mask during delivery to reduce transmission," Dr. Manjarambath Jaleel, who runs the Parkland Neonatal ICU, told WFAA.

After baby Alexa tested positive, doctors tested the placenta, which also came back positive.

"Having the testing positive of the placenta, the most likely explanation was the transmission of infection was when the baby was in the mother's womb," Jaleel said.

A day or two later, Alexa developed a fever and required supplemental oxygen, Jaleel told WFAA. According to Jaleel, 128 pregnant women at Parkland have tested positive for COVID-19. Six of the babies later tested positive, but only Alexa got sick, Jaleel said.

Wendy Figueroa was unable to hold Alexa for three weeks after giving birth.

"I could not see my daughter. They took her from me. I could only see her from far away. I could not hold her. I cried," Figueroa told WFAA. She cried for 20 consecutive days waiting to hold Alexa for the first time. While she waited, Parkland officials set up an iPad on Alexa's incubator during the day so that Wendy could watch her daughter.

"When I held my daughter for the first time at that moment nothing else mattered," Figueroa said.

Both mom and daughter eventually recovered from the coronavirus.

Transmission between mother and baby is rare, Parkland Health's Hospital System OB/GYN Dr. Wilmer Moreno told KXAS-TV.

Florida

DAYTONA BEACH — As Major League Baseball adapts to a hospital-shortened 60-game season, a Daytona Beach business has become ground zero for Tampa Bay Rays fans.

Well, two-dimensional versions of them, at least.

With no crowds allowed in ballparks, the Rays and other teams have turned to selling oversized cutouts of fan photos to popu-

late grandstands and offer an entertaining diversion amid the disruptions of the coronavirus pandemic.

At Tropicana Field, home of the Rays, those graphically generated fans are the creations of DME Visual, a Daytona Beach wide-format printing company.

The company already has produced roughly 1,500 of the 18-x-30-inch photo cutouts that the Rays debuted at Tuesday's home game against the Boston Red Sox in St. Petersburg.

And there are more on the way, said Kevin Majeski, the company's operations manager.

"There are more coming this week," Majeski said. "We can produce hundreds a day."

The cutouts have become so popular among fans that the Rays extended the deadline for fans to purchase them an additional week, said Eric Weisberg, the team's vice president of Marketing & Creative Services.

Georgia

ATLANTA — A 15-year-old boy in metro Atlanta has died from complications caused by COVID-19, making him the second-youngest individual to die from the virus in Georgia, according to state health officials.

The Georgia Department of Public Health said the Gwinnett County teenager had no underlying medical conditions. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Saturday.

Officials did not say when or where the teenager contracted the virus. A spokeswoman for the Georgia Department of Public Health said no additional details would be released.

Gwinnett County has had the second most infections in the state with more than 21,400 confirmed cases.

His death comes after many Georgia school districts reopened "in-person" classes. Cherokee County has reported 80 new confirmed cases of the coronavirus after only two weeks since school districts reopened. School officials say a total of 1,106 students and employees have needed to quarantine.

The youngest confirmed death caused by COVID-19 in Georgia was a 7-year-old boy from Savannah. Officials say he was not believed to have had any pre-existing conditions either.

Hawaii

KAHULUI, Hawaii — Kahului Airport on Maui has completed its second phase of its thermal screening program meant to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

The screening uses thermal imaging and facial recognition technology to pinpoint people with a temperature of 100.4 de-



AARON DOSTER/AP

Reds' mascot Mr. Red performs among fan cutouts during a baseball game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Cincinnati Reds in Cincinnati on Friday.

grees or higher.

Dual-lens cameras have been installed at all arrival gates and TSA checkpoints in the airport.

When phase three is completed, the cameras will be able to track travelers with high body temperatures so contact tracers can stop and screen them before they leave the airport, The Maui News reported.

Maui Airports District Manager Marvin Moniz says he expects phase three to be completed before the end of the year.

Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS — Carlos Gomez was not able to work at his construction job for three weeks after he tested positive for COVID-19 in April.

"I didn't know what to do," he said, "so I went to the emergency room."

Gomez, 44, who doesn't have health insurance, received a \$900 bill from his emergency visit to the hospital that he was not able to pay.

Once he recovered, and after a series of calls to friends and others he knew, a group from his church was able to help him financially, he said. Gomez, who is originally from Mexico, has lived in Indianapolis for over a decade and told IndyStar this is the first time he felt the need to ask for help.

That's why he didn't know there were resources available to help him.

"It's tough and uncomfortable. And I can't be afraid to go to work," he said. "I was able to recover so I hope that God helps me and that I don't have to go through that again."

In Indianapolis, the Immigrant Welcome Center developed a program 14 years ago set up to help empower immigrants like Gomez who might not know about resources available, or who might not feel comfortable enough to ask for help.

The organization's Natural Helpers program is made up of volunteers — many of them immigrants themselves — helping the immigrant and refugee communities in Marion County find the resources they need to better

navigate life in the United States. And recently, efforts by the Natural Helpers have been crucial to helping these communities navigate life in a new country during a pandemic.

The need for these resources among the immigrant and refugee communities has intensified since the coronavirus pandemic hit Central Indiana in March.

From conversations with those families, Natural Helpers reported a 39% increase in food insecurity, and 29% of the people did not know how to access healthcare. Immigrant Welcome Center interim executive director Dana Harrison told IndyStar.

New York

NEW YORK — The annual light display honoring victims of 9/11 is back on, officials announced Saturday, saying New York health officials will supervise this year's tribute to ensure workers' safety amid concerns related to the coronavirus pandemic.

"This year it is especially important that we all appreciate and commemorate 9/11, the lives lost and the heroism displayed as New Yorkers are once again called upon to face a common enemy," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in a statement.

The announcement came days after the National September 11 Memorial & Museum canceled the Tribute in Light over concerns the coronavirus might spread among crews creating twin columns of light to represent the World Trade Center in the Manhattan sky.

Alice Greenwald, president and CEO of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, thanked former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg, Cuomo and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation "for their assistance in offsetting the increased costs associated with the health and safety considerations around the tribute this year."

Nevada

LAS VEGAS — The food service provider at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas will lay off 940 employees the organi-

zation said in a letter to Nevada officials.

HMSHost sent a letter to the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation about the decisions last week. The group also said that any workers that were furloughed and not scheduled to return to work by Oct. 15 will also be let go.

Most of the layoffs are for those working as fast-food clerks, restaurant hosts, baristas, bartenders and servers.

Food and retail outlets at the airport have been severely affected by the pandemic, which has greatly diminished air travel. Though some outlets at McCarran have reopened with limited hours, many of them remain closed.

HMSHost continues to see an unprecedented decline in traffic in airports and on the motorways," the company's letter said. "The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the travel and restaurant industries and, unfortunately, HMSHost sits at the crossroads of both. Never in the history of aviation and the hospitality industry, have we experienced such catastrophic customer traffic declines."

Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA — The coronavirus pandemic has slammed the brakes on this year's Philly Naked Bike Ride.

The annual event, which usually draws thousands of nude cyclists for a trip around Philadelphia and its tourist sites, had been set for later this month. But organizers who had been gearing up for it said the city's COVID-19 cases made them halt their planning.

"After much debate, we feel that cancelling this year's event is the most responsible thing to do," they said on their website.

But they had a message for would-be naked riders eager to break free of their home lockdowns: They hope to be back riding in 2021.

"We hope to see you next year, hopefully under better and healthier circumstances," they said. "Keep up your (socially distant) riding and be safe."

NATION

Dems head to convention with spirit of unity

By DAN BALZ

The Washington Post

The Democratic National Convention will open Monday in a spirit of unity and shared purpose, with the party's often-warring moderate establishment and galvanized liberal wings agreeing for now to set aside their differences to defeat President Donald Trump in November and deliver the White House to Joe Biden.

That's not to say that divisions and disagreements don't exist. They do and likely will be back if Biden wins, potentially complicating his efforts to govern. Still, the overall mood on the eve of this year's convention contrasts with that of four years ago, when Hillary Clinton arrived in Philadelphia still dealing with the grievances of a long and rugged nominating contest against Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.

That Democrats today appear far more unified is testament in part to the work of Biden, Sanders and their teams over the past several months to avoid a repeat of the 2016 experience. But the unity owes much more to the occupant of the White House, whom many Democrats fear could inflict lasting damage to the country and its democratic institutions if he gains a second term.

"Four years ago, you could put it to Donald Trump as the wolf at the gate, but it was still theoretical," said Pete Buttigieg, the former South Bend, Ind., mayor who ran unsuccessfully against Biden in the primaries. "Now the wolf is through the gate, eating the chickens."

For the Democratic rank-and-file, the goal of preventing Trump from winning a second term overrides almost everything else between now and November. It was that sentiment that ultimately helped deliver the nomination to Biden.

The candidate, whose nomination will be made official Tuesday, was seen as better positioned to

win a general election than Sanders, who had harnessed the power of liberal activists enough to be the front-runner for the nomination until a weakened Biden saw his candidacy resurrected by Black voters in the South Carolina primary.

Since the unexpectedly rapid conclusion to the primary battle, Democrats have been sobered toward unity by the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic, Trump's mismanagement of the crisis and the challenges all that presents to the country. They are aware that, if Biden wins in November, he and the party will inherit a set of emergencies unlike anything seen since the days of the Great Depression or before.

In that case, the party's future could depend on how effectively a prospective Biden administration harnesses the power of government to deal with the pandemic and the related economic emergency and also to address issues of racial justice and reconciliation that many in the party now see as more urgent than ever.

For all those reasons, the majority of Democrats believe it is in their interest to come together — at least until November.

The issue differences between the energized liberal wing and more dominant centrist wing have been harmonized ahead of the convention through what William Galston of the Brookings Institution calls "pretty skillful internal party management by the Biden forces."

Meanwhile, the nomination of Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., as Biden's running mate highlights but will far from satisfy the aspirations of women, minorities and more broadly a younger generation of Democratic leaders to have a larger voice in all deliberations.

Those who went through the 2016 Democratic nominating process agree that the atmosphere inside the party today is far better than it was four years ago.

71, had also been hospitalized in June. His illness was unrelated to the coronavirus, said people familiar with the situation.

Robert Trump was one of four surviving children of real estate developer Fred Trump and had been an executive at the Trump Organization.

Trump paid tribute to his sibling in remarks at his Bedminster, N.J., golf club Friday, as "a really good guy that I love."

The president is expected to attend his brother's funeral.

From wire reports



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Letter carriers load mail trucks for deliveries at a U.S. Postal Service facility in McLean, Va., on July 31.

Postal Service warns states about possible delay of mail-in ballots

By BRIAN SLODYNSKY
AND AMY BETH HANSON*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service is warning states coast to coast that it cannot guarantee all ballots cast by mail for the November election will arrive in time to be counted, even if mailed by state deadlines, raising the possibility that millions of voters could be disenfranchised.

Voters and lawmakers in several states are also complaining that some curbside mail collection boxes are being removed.

Even as President Donald Trump rails against wide-scale voting by mail, the post office is bracing for an unprecedented number of mail-in ballots as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The warning letters sent to states raise the possibility that many Americans eligible for mail-in ballots this fall will not

have them counted. But that is not the intent, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy said in his own letter to Democratic congressional leaders.

The post office is merely "asking elected officials and voters to realistically consider how the mail works, and be mindful of our delivery standards, in order to provide voters ample time to cast ballots through the mail," wrote DeJoy, a prominent Trump political donor who was recently appointed.

The back-and-forth comes amid a vigorous campaign by Trump to sow doubts about mail-in voting as he faces a difficult fight for reelection against Democrat Joe Biden.

Though Trump casts his own ballots by mail, he's repeatedly criticized efforts to allow more people to do so, which he argues without evidence will lead to increased voter fraud that could cost him the election. Meanwhile,

members of Congress from both parties have voiced concerns that curbside mailboxes, which is how many will cast their ballots, have abruptly been removed in some states.

At the same time that the need for timely delivery of the mail is peaking, service has been curtailed amid cost-cutting and efficiency measures ordered by the DeJoy, the new postmaster general, who is a former supply-chain CEO. He has implemented measures to eliminate overtime pay and hold mail over if distribution centers are running late.

The federal watchdog of the Postal Service has opened an inquiry into operational changes at the agency that have delayed mail deliveries across the country, a spokeswoman said Friday. That comes after Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, and eight other Democrats sent a letter requesting a review.

Senate panel warns DOJ that Russia testimony may have been misleading

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Republican and Democratic chairmen of the Senate Intelligence Committee notified federal prosecutors last year of their suspicion that several individuals, including President Donald Trump's family members and confidants, might have presented misleading testimony in the panel's investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election, people familiar with the matter said.

The list of individuals included the president's son, Donald Trump Jr., and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, whose accounts of their pre-election meeting with a Rus-

sian lawyer were contradicted by the president's former deputy campaign chairman Rick Gates in interviews that were part of the criminal investigation led by special counsel Robert Mueller III, these people said. Like others, they spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss what remains a highly politicized and sensitive matter.

But the intelligence committee, one person said, reserved its harshest allegations for the president's former chief strategist, Stephen Bannon, former campaign co-chair Sam Clovis and private security contractor Erik Prince, saying it had reason to believe all three had lied to congressional in-

vestigators — a potential felony.

The committee's concerns were detailed in a formal letter sent to the U.S. attorney's office in the District of Columbia in June 2019, people familiar with the matter said. Existence of the letter was first reported by the Los Angeles Times late Friday night.

The Senate Intelligence Committee referred several individuals' testimony to the Justice Department over the course of its 3½-year probe, citing discrepancies in their accounts, three officials said.

It is expected to release the final volume of its findings as soon as this week.

Trump says his younger brother Robert has died

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's younger brother, Robert S. Trump, died Saturday after an unspecified illness.

"He was not just my brother, he was my best friend," Trump said in a brief statement.

The president visited his brother Friday in New York-Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan, hours after it was reported that the younger man had been hospitalized. Robert Trump, who was

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

MAGA hat cake sparks protest at bakery

NY COLONIE — Protesters and counterprotesters gathered at a New York bakery in response to an image of a cake made to resemble a Make America Great Again hat that was posted on social media in July.

Employees at Coccadotts Cake Shop in Colonie were still working as protesters chanted outside, the Times Union reported.

Black Lives Matter protesters were outnumbered by the counterprotesters who came out in support of the bakery. There were more than 125 people outside the bakery, the newspaper reported.

Retailer removes towel depicting Hindu deity

MA BOSTON — Online home goods retailer Wayfair pulled a beach towel depicting the Hindu deity Lord Ganesha, according to a Hindu organization that raised the objection. Rajan Zed, president of Universal Society of Hinduism, said in a statement that the Boston-based company had apologized and removed the towel from its website within an hour of the organization's raising concerns.

Zed called the "Hindu Elephant Beach Towel," which retailed for about \$26, "highly inappropriate" and thanked Wayfair for understanding the Hindu community's concerns.

County votes to keep Confederate memorial

MD EASTON — A county on Maryland's Eastern Shore voted to keep a memorial honoring Confederate soldiers, sparking a protest outside the meeting as activists said officials had used the coronavirus pandemic as an "excuse" to shelve the issue.

The Talbot County Council voted 3-2 to keep the memorial on the lawn of the Talbot County Courthouse, "a Washington Post reported. Officials said they were only considering emergency legislation during the pandemic and said there had been limited public input on the measure.

Talbot County Council President Corey W. Pack, a Republican, said the vote was "disappointing." He said 28 callers at a public hearing on the statue spoke against it last month, while just four spoke in favor of keeping it.

Car theft suspect found after stealing police car

WA RENTON — The Renton Police Department said one person was detained after a Renton police car was stolen.

Renton police said officers saw a potential auto theft suspect on foot at a car dealership. They attempted to talk to the man but he walked away.

As officers were walking back to their patrol cars, a witness called 911 to report the man had reached into the open window of one of the patrol cars, unlocked the door and drove away.



DAVE ZAJAC, (MERIDEN, CONN.) RECORD-JOURNAL/AP

Giving them wings

Pilot Mark Scott sits in an RV-12 plane built by Wilcox Technical High School students and members of the "Teens to Flight" program at Meriden Markham Airport in Meriden, Conn. The plane took more than four years to build.

Seattle Police located the stolen police car 30 minutes later. The suspect, an adult male in his 30s, was found several blocks away and arrested for felony theft.

Man: State flag with mosquito was a joke

MS JACKSON — A Mississippi man who submitted a proposal to place a giant mosquito on the new state flag, a design that went viral on social media, said he created it as a joke. Thomas Rosette, a deckhand on the Yazoo River, told the Clarion Ledger he created the "mosquito flag," which features a giant mosquito surrounded by a circle of stars, to poke fun at a coworker who had been against changing the flag. Working on the river, he said he is very familiar with Mississippi mosquitoes and it felt like a fitting way to represent the state.

Lawmakers took a historic vote this year to take down the old state flag, which featured the Confederate battle flag, a symbol widely condemned as racist. A nine-member commission will recommend a replacement flag.

Man pleads guilty to buying tiger skin rug

OH COLUMBUS — An Ohio man who bought a tiger skin rug in violation of the federal endangered species act pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge, the government said.

Fyan Gibbs of Cincinnati must serve a year on probation, per-

THE CENSUS

800

The number of gallons of spoiled milk dumped into central Iowa's Fourmile Creek by an employee of a Hy-Vee store in Ankeny, Iowa, leading to a fish kill. Hy-Vee released a statement saying a store employee made an uninformed decision instructing workers to dump the milk in the creek following a power outage. Des Moines television station KCCI reported. The grocery store said it would cover all costs related to cleanup. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources said it's considering enforcement action, including restitution for the fish killed.

form 80 hours of community service, and donate \$100,000 to a federal fund used to provide rewards for tipsters in illegal wildlife trade cases, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Gibbs also agreed to give up a stuffed lion, two stuffed puffs, a panther skin and a sawfish rostrum — the bill or beak of the sawfish — which he owns, according to the government.

Gibbs, 44, a Cincinnati attorney, tried buying a tiger skin from someone in the United Kingdom in 2018 but was told it was illegal, prosecutors said. That person put him in touch in 2019 with a seller in Minnesota, who turned out to be an undercover U.S. Fish and Wildlife agent.

Driver injured, firetrucks damaged in collision

NC SALISBURY — A truck driver was injured and three firetrucks were damaged after a collision on Interstate 85 in North Carolina, the N.C. State Highway Patrol said.

The patrol said three firetrucks were in the southbound lanes re-

sponding to a tractor-trailer fire, news outlets reported. A second tractor-trailer hit the three firetrucks from the Miller Ferry Fire Department, pushing them into one another, patrol 1st Sgt. G.A. Barger said.

According to Barger, the truck driver suffered second- and third-degree burns and was taken to a Winston-Salem hospital. No firefighters were injured, according to the trooper.

Alerts to notify Android users of earthquakes

CA SACRAMENTO — California's earthquake early warnings will be a standard feature on all Android phones, bypassing the need for users to download the state's MyShake app in order to receive alerts, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services said.

The state worked with the U.S. Geological Survey and Google, the maker of Android, to build the quake alerts into all phones that run the commonplace operating system.

The technology does not pre-

dict earthquakes. It is designed to quickly take data from seismic sensors and send warnings to potentially affected areas if a quake of magnitude 4.5 or greater occurs and if the projected shaking at a particular location is at a certain level of intensity.

The MyShake technology was developed by the University of California, Berkeley, and released in 2019.

Dorms honoring white supremacists renamed

VA BLACKSBURG — Virginia Tech is renaming two of its dorms that honored men who espoused white supremacist views.

The buildings built in the 1960s will now instead be named for Black people who fought for the right to be on Tech's campus, according to The Roanoke Times.

"The previous names on these two residence halls were inconsistent with the rich heritage and increasingly diverse community that is Virginia Tech," President Tim Sands said in a statement.

Lee Hall will be renamed Hoge Hall in honor of William and Janie Hoge, who hosted Black students in their home in the 1950s, a time when the university denied campus housing to Black students.

Barringer Hall will be renamed to honor Leslie Whitehurst Jr., a 1963 graduate who became the first Black student allowed to live on campus in 1961 and who in 1970 became the first Black member of Tech's board of visitors.

From wire reports

NATION

Police move in after fights during Georgia protest

Associated Press

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga. — After several hours of mostly peaceful demonstrations Saturday in an Atlanta suburb that is home to a giant Confederate memorial, large numbers of police officers moved in to disperse the crowds when fights began to break out.

Several dozen right-wing demonstrators, some waving the Confederate battle flag and many wearing military gear, gathered in downtown Stone Mountain where they faced off against a few hundred counterprotesters, many of whom wore shirts or carried signs expressing support for the Black Lives Matter movement. People in both groups were carrying rifles. For several hours, there was little visible po-



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

A woman is helped after being sprayed with an unknown agent during a protest Saturday in Stone Mountain Village, Ga.

lice presence and things were largely peaceful, aside from some shoving, pushing and spirited

arguments.

But just before 1 p.m., fights broke out, with people punch-

ing and kicking each other and throwing rocks. That's when police officers in riot gear moved in to disperse the crowds.

By 2 p.m., almost all of the protesters had left the area.

Right-wing groups led by an Arkansas group called Confederate States III%, had applied for a permit to hold a rally in Stone Mountain Park, where there's a giant sculpture of Confederate leaders. The event was planned as a response to a march in the park by a Black militia group on July 4.

But the Stone Mountain Memorial Association denied the permit on Aug. 4, citing a previous violent clash between groups in April 2016, spokesman John Bankhead said. The park closed to visitors Saturday and was set

to reopen Sunday.

With police manning barriers to keep people from entering the park, demonstrators took to the streets of the adjoining city of Stone Mountain, which on Friday had advised people to stay away all day and urged residents to stay home and businesses to shut down.

The predominantly Black demonstrators on July 4 spoke out against the huge sculpture depicting Gen. Robert E. Lee, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. Carved into a granite mountain, the bas-relief sculpture is the largest Confederate monument ever crafted. The 100 to 200 protesters, many of whom carried large rifles, were peaceful.

Far-right group, counterprotesters clash in Michigan

Associated Press

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — Members of the far-right Proud Boys group and counterprotesters clashed violently Saturday afternoon in western Michigan, resulting in arrests, police said.

Assistant Chief Vernon Coakley of the Kalamazoo Department of

Public Safety said a few people were arrested, but didn't know exactly how many.

"A fight occurred, people were fighting, and that's when we stepped in," Coakley said.

Counterprotesters staged their own event in the area at the same time as the rally that the Proud

Boys had planned, according to local media reports. When the Proud Boys arrived, the confrontation ensued. Some fistfights occurred before police arrived and ordered the crowds to disperse. A reporter for MLive.com, who was detained by police while recording live on Facebook, reported

that some of the Proud Boys also used pepper spray on people.

The male-only Proud Boys have been called extremist by the Anti-Defamation League and described as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. The Proud Boys dispute those descriptions.

"The Proud Boys, they not only have hatred for Jewish people and Muslim people, but they're also very hateful of anybody who doesn't look like them or act like them," said the Rev. Nathan Danison, pastor of the First Congregational Church, which hosted a vigil by counterprotesters.

Portland police declare riot, push protesters from building

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — A riot was declared in Oregon's biggest city as protesters demonstrated outside a law enforcement building early Sunday, continuing a nightly ritual in Portland.

Officers used crowd control munitions to disperse the gathering outside the Penumbra Kelly

building, news outlets reported.

Protesters had thrown "softball size" rocks, glass bottles and other objects at officers, police said on Twitter. The department also said security cameras had been spray painted and other vandalism occurred.

The actions came after what started as a peaceful protest, with demonstrators chanting "take it

to the streets!"

Saturday afternoon, a rally by a small group of alt-right demonstrators quickly devolved as they traded paint balls and pepper spray with counterprotesters.

About 30 people were participating in the Patriot Prayer rally in front of the Multnomah County Justice Center. KOIN-TV initially reported that several were armed

with automatic weapons, but later said it was unclear what type of weapons were involved.

The group clashed with counterprotesters through downtown streets, and some counterprotesters blocked the exit of a garage where several Patriot Prayer members had parked.

A KOIN photojournalist reported hearing at least two gun-

shots at the garage. Police said in a statement that "a person allegedly fired a gun." Portland police Lt. Greg Pashley told The Oregonian/OregonLive that the department would investigate.

Earlier in the day, police said they made four arrests overnight as they dispersed a protest that was headed toward the offices of the police union.

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WORLD

Telephone lines open between UAE, Israel

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Telephone service between the United Arab Emirates and Israel began working Sunday as the two countries open diplomatic ties, part of a deal brokered by the U.S. that required Israel to halt its contentious plan to annex West Bank land sought by the Palestinians for a future state.

Associated Press journalists in Jerusalem and Dubai were able to call each other from both landline and cellular phones registered to Israel's country code +972 from around 1:15 p.m.

Israeli Communications Minister Yoaz Handal issued a statement "congratulating the United Arab Emirates on removing the blocks."

"Many economic opportunities will open now, and these trust-building steps are an important step toward advancing states' interests," Handal said.

Also Sunday, Israeli news websites that had previously been blocked by UAE authorities, like

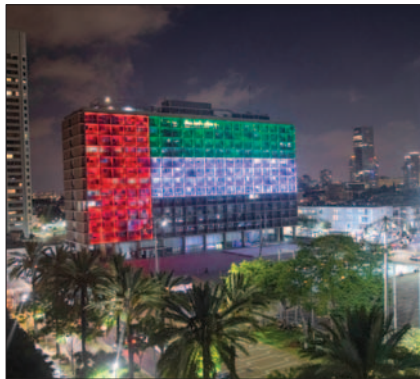
the Times of Israel, the Jerusalem Post and YNet, could be accessed without using means to bypass internet filtering in the Emirates.

In the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula, a recorded message in Arabic and English would typically play prior to Sunday saying calls to +972 numbers could not be connected. The advent of internet calling allowed people to get around the ban, though these too were often interrupted.

The connection of phone service represents the first concrete sign of the deal between the Emirates and Israelis.

Israel and the United Arab Emirates announced Thursday they are establishing full diplomatic relations in the U.S.-brokered accord.

The historic deal delivered a key foreign policy victory to President Donald Trump as he seeks reelection and reflected a changing Middle East in which shared concerns about arch-enemy Iran have largely overtaken traditional Arab support for the



ODED BALIYAP

The Tel Aviv City Hall is lit up with the flag of the United Arab Emirates as the UAE and Israel announced they would be establishing full diplomatic ties Thursday in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Palestinians.

The agreement will make the UAE the third Arab country, after Egypt and Jordan, to have full, active diplomatic ties with Israel. The countries announced it in a joint statement, saying deals between Israel and the UAE were expected in the coming weeks

in such areas as tourism, direct flights and embassies.

Early Sunday, the Emirates' state-run WAM news agency announced a UAE company had signed an agreement with an Israeli company for research and study of the coronavirus pandemic.

German police raids target illegal gambling

BERLIN — Hundreds of police officers searched shisha bars, tea houses and illegal gambling halls across western Germany early Sunday.

The officers confiscated 34,000 euros (around \$40,000) in cash, 19 gambling machines and 6.6 pounds of shisha tobacco, the German news agency dpa reported.

Eleven stores were shut down because of violations against coronavirus measures.

The interior minister of the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia, where most of the raids took place, said the police actions were an important signal to show that the state is implementing a zero-tolerance strategy against this kind of crime.

"It's about showing those, who are destabilizing everyday life in these cities, it's over," state interior minister Herbert Reul said. "Here, the rule of the states is valid, not that of the family."

The states allege that many of the illegal gambling halls are run by immigrant families.

Raids were conducted in the cities of Essen, Bochum, Herne, Witten, Gelsenkirchen, Dortmund, Wuppertal and the county of Mettmann, dpa reported.

From The Associated Press

Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Transportation

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FACES

Cohen's memoir about Trump coming Sept. 8

From wire reports

Michael Cohen's memoir about President Donald Trump will be released Sept. 8 by Skyhorse Publishing, which confirmed the news Aug. 13 to The Associated Press. The book is called "Disloyal: The True Story of the Former Personal Attorney to President Donald J. Trump."

"Disloyal" is the most devastating business and political horror story of the century," according to a Skyhorse statement shared with the AP. "It is a story that you have never read in newspapers, or on social media, or watched on television. These are accounts that only someone who worked for Trump around the clock for a decade — not a few months or even a couple of years — could know."

Earlier Aug. 13, Cohen had released the book's foreword, writing of his estranged former boss, "He wouldn't mind if I was dead." He did not list a publisher for the book.

Cohen is completing the last two years of a three-year prison sentence at home after pleading guilty to campaign finance charges and lying to Congress.

Gomez, Blackpink team up for single

After a week of fevered speculation, pop star Selena Gomez has revealed herself as the mystery artist featured on Blackpink's forthcoming single, arriving Aug. 28. The K-pop girl group recently unveiled the cover art for the track and hinted at a new collaboration.

"So 30 excited to announce [Blackpink] and I have a new song coming out," Gomez said Aug. 11, confirming the rumors on Twitter and Instagram.

Earlier this year, the women of Blackpink joined forces with Lady Gaga for "Sour Candy," a hit single off the latter's 2020 album, "Chromatica," and teamed with Dua Lipa in 2018 for "Kiss and Make Up."

Blackpink's highly anticipated debut album is set to arrive Oct. 2.

Chris Evans is photographed July 30 at his home in Boston during a remote portrait session.

MATT SATLES, INVISION/AP



Shielding democracy

'Captain America' star Chris Evans hopes his new website, app can help voters make educated choices

By RYAN PEARSON
Associated Press

Chris Evans became the most politically prickly "Avenger" a few years back with withering tweets about President Donald Trump and his Republican supporters.

But the "Captain America" actor is staying relatively quiet during this presidential campaign. He wants to amplify the voices of elected officials instead.

Last month, Evans launched a civic engagement app and website called A Starting Point, featuring short videos from both Republican and Democratic members of Congress and other U.S. politicians sharing perspectives on policy issues.

With regular visits to Capitol Hill, Evans built the site over the course of two years alongside tech entrepreneur Joe Kiani and actor-producer Mark Kassen, a longtime friend. They hope to keep it going long after the November election.

"This was born out of the same reason I do what I do on Twitter. You want to try and help. You want to try and use the platform that you've been given the right way," Evans said in an interview from his home in Boston. "And this felt like it could cast the widest net because it actually removed my personal politics and just tried to offer information to people who may want to participate."

The site is divided into three sections. One includes three Republicans and three Democrats answering questions about broad long-term issues like immigration, climate change, student debt and gerrymandering. The second allows politicians to upload solo messages about hot topics like Trump's executive orders or TikTok ban. And a "counterpoints" section highlights moderated interparty debates: Should schools reopen during the pandemic? Should the government require mail-in voting?

The site is intended to educate, not advocate, Evans says. It's built without incentives toward extremes. There are no view counters, like or dislike buttons, or comments sections. Videos in the "Starting Points" section are fact-checked by an outside group.

Evans says he's been pleased to see Republicans uploading more "daily points" videos to the site than Democrats in recent weeks.

As he prepares to potentially film a Netflix spy movie in January, the self-described "news junkie" says he's tuned out the presidential campaign temporarily to focus on A Starting Point. His social media is mostly benign these days.

"It's a measure of efficacy. How can you be of most good, of most service?" Evans said. "This site feels to me that it could have a broader impact than anything I could do on my individual Twitter."

Spicoli back virtually for 'Fast Times' benefit

Spicoli is making a virtual return to Ridgemont High to raise money for a pair of nonprofit groups.

Sean Penn, a cast member in 1982's "Fast Times at Ridgemont High," will be joined by Julia Roberts, Jennifer Aniston and other stars in a socially distanced reading of the film's script.

Penn is handling the role of stoner Jeff Spicoli over to another actor, with details about who's playing what part to be unveiled at the Aug. 20 event.

The reading will benefit CORE, co-founded by Penn and now engaged in coronavirus testing and relief efforts, and the REFORM Alliance, focusing on criminal justice reform and helping to protect inmates from COVID-19.

The fundraiser, produced by comedian Dane Cook and announced Aug. 13 on an "unheard, anything-goes" reading, also is set to include Morgan Freeman, Henry Golding, Shia LaBeouf and Matthew McConaughey. None of those actors, nor Roberts or Aniston, appeared in the original film.

The event will be available on Facebook Live and TikTok via CORE's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/CoreResponse.

Other news

■ Colombian superstar J Balvin says he is recovering after battling the coronavirus. In a pre-taped video that aired Aug. 13 as Balvin accepted an award at Premios Juventud 2020, the performer revealed he contracted COVID-19 and that it impacted him heavily. The 35-year-old singer won five honors.

■ It's baby No. 3 for John Legend and Chrissy Teigen. The couple revealed they are expecting in Legend's new video for the song "Will," which premiered Aug. 13. The video also features their 4-year-old daughter Luna and 2-year-old son Miles.

■ The author of the million-selling self-help book "The Secret" is aiming even higher with her next work. Publisher HarperOne says Rhonda Byrne's "The Greatest Secret" is coming out Nov. 24.

From The Associated Press

'SNL' fans hoping Maya Rudolph resumes political impression

By MICHAEL CAVNA
The Washington Post

When Sarah Palin was named the Republican vice-presidential candidate in 2008, "Saturday Night Live" creator Lorne Michaels noted that even his doorman said: "What a gift — you're going to have so much fun with Tina Fey" portraying Palin.

"SNL" may have just received another major comedy gift from the national political stage.

On Aug. 11, as Kamala Harris was announced as the vice presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket, many on social media endorsed former "SNL" cast member Maya Rudolph as their pick to return to the show to portray the California senator. Even Rudolph, who was on a virtual Entertainment Weekly panel when the news

broke, immediately reacted with "ruh-roh" and "Oh, s---," and added, about the prospect of reprising her acclaimed turn: "That's spicy."

Through a representative, Rudolph declined further comment.)

Rudolph was recently nominated for an Emmy for her portrayal, making her only the second "SNL" guest actress ever to receive a nod specifically for portraying a politician. Fey won the award in 2009 for playing Palin. (Rudolph will be up for three Emmys when the awards are announced Sept. 20 — she was also recognized for "The Good Place" and "Big Mouth.")

Rudolph offered a memorable comic take on Harris three times last season,

in sketches that parodied the Democratic presidential debates and town halls. The actress portrayed Harris as the fun aunt, or law-and-order "funt" who will "give you weed, but then arrest you for having weed."

In one Democratic debate last year, Harris addressed eventual presidential nominee Joe Biden's record on busing by saying: "You know, there was a little girl in California who was part of the second class to integrate her public schools, and she was bused to school every day. And that little girl was me." After Rudolph played Harris on "SNL" in September, the senator approvingly tweeted: "That girl played by @MayaRudolph on @nbsnl! That girl was me."

The next step is to see whether Michaels and Rudolph decide to answer the call of the audience groundswell if and when "SNL"

returns this fall. The series suspended creating live shows in March due to the pandemic and completed its 45th season in May with several all-digital episodes.

"I love going to the show. Any excuse I can get, I love," Rudolph added during the virtual panel. "I just didn't really anticipate traveling during a pandemic, but if there's anyone who can work it out, I'm sure Lorne has some kind of invisible helicopter that can get me there."

Harris' nomination was historic for making her the first woman of color on a major ticket, and Rudolph has made a bit of showbiz history of her own. In 2012, Rudolph — an "SNL" cast member from 2000 to 2007 — became "SNL's" first actress of color ever to receive a Emmy nom for a guest role.

"SNL" also has not announced who will play Biden when the show returns.



Rudolph

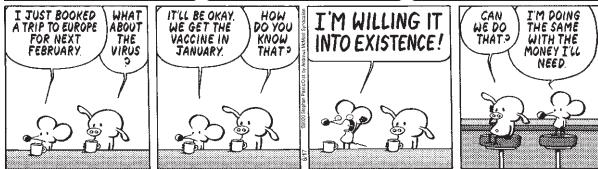
Frazz



Dilbert



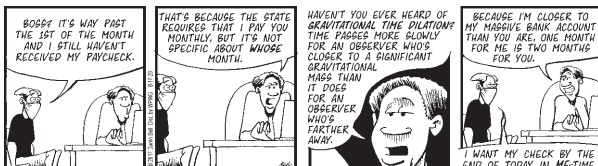
Pearly Before Swine



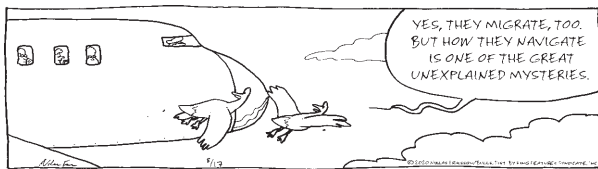
Non Sequitur



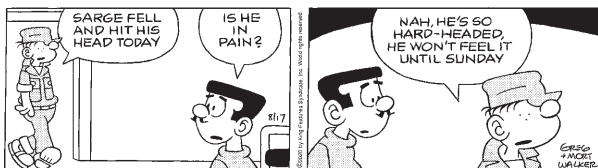
Candorville



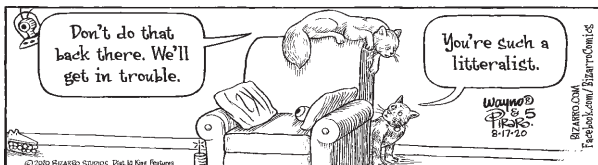
Carpe Diem



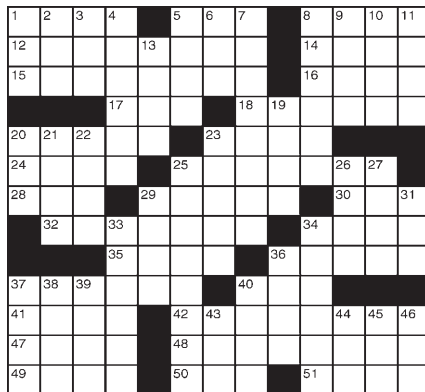
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Spheres
- 5 Julius Erving's nickname
- 8 "Apollo 13" org.
- 12 Italian dessert
- 14 Unrefined metals
- 15 Hipsters
- 16 "Breaking Bad" drug
- 17 Designer
- 18 Lowbrow
- 20 Vietnam capital
- 23 Aussie greeting
- 24 There oughta be —!
- 25 "Awesome!"
- 28 Chick's mom
- 29 Gaffer Palmer, to fans
- 30 Ms. Farrow
- 32 Engine fluid
- 34 Tranquil
- 35 India's continent
- 36 Like some mouthwash
- 37 Portable PC
- 40 Distant
- 41 Competent
- 42 Remain calm
- 47 Construction piece
- 48 Intensify
- 49 Sun beams
- 50 Perched
- 51 Gaelic

DOWN

- 1 Like aspirin, briefly
- 2 Carnival city
- 3 Buddy
- 4 Yellowish
- 5 Actress
- 6 Cameron
- 6 Letters after Q
- 7 Nike slogan
- 8 Deli request
- 9 Villain in "Wonder Woman"
- 10 "Family Guy" creator MacFarlane
- 11 Wan
- 13 DLI doubled
- 19 Indy event
- 20 Taunting laugh
- 21 Mr. Guinness
- 22 iPod model
- 23 "Fly Now" ("Rocky" theme)
- 25 Rambles
- 26 Yemen neighbor
- 27 Happy tune
- 29 Too
- 31 "Little Women" woman
- 33 Westerns
- 34 Sewing group
- 36 Poet Angelou
- 37 Hideaway
- 38 "Waterloo" group
- 39 Theater production
- 40 Datum
- 43 Airport
- 44 screening org.
- 44 Scull tool
- 45 NFL tiebreakers
- 46 Director Spike

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-17

CRYPTOQUIP

DNDHZRS RQSVFF AYN ARF

KG ZNQF NC ONIIVSOKRZF

CNS BVGQRZ ORSV DSNBHOQF

CRSSRY CZNFF-KQ.

Saturday's Cryptokip: BECAUSE I'VE STRUCK AN UNPAID WORKER WITH A BENT LEG, I MIGHT PROCLAIM "I KNEED A VOLUNTEER!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals P

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Afghans are taking a risk for peace

By ASHRAF GHANI
Special to The Washington Post

The Afghan people want peace. This has been our constant demand and foremost priority for four decades, an entire lifetime for most of us. In June 2018, the Afghan government, and our people, took a risk for peace by initiating the country's first cease-fire since 2001. It allowed us, for three days, to not only want peace but to live it. Over the past two years, we have taken multiple risks in the pursuit of peace because we cannot afford to pay the costs of failure.

This month, we made the decision to take another risk for peace. After releasing 4,600 Taliban prisoners to facilitate certain conditions of the U.S.-Taliban deal of Feb. 29, we were confronted with the difficult issue of releasing 400 remaining prisoners convicted of serious crimes, including the killing of Afghans and citizens of the international community. We were assured that their release would fulfill the Taliban's final demand before facing us at the negotiating table.

This was not a risk I could take alone, constitutionally or morally without consulting the Afghan people. Earlier in the month, 3,400 women and men from all provinces of Afghanistan and all strata of society came together, in the presence of the country's political leadership, at a consultative assembly known as a Loya Jirga, to deliberate and debate. They decided to approve the release of the prisoners, and the next day I signed the order. It was the Afghan people's latest, and boldest, risk for peace.

In 2018, we knew peace would be costly, but we did not know what those costs would be. We do know now, and we have paid heavily. The cost of releasing these 5,000 prisoners meant, among other things, denying justice and healing for the families of those they murdered. Since March, we have also

We must all come together to achieve this vision. It will require a different kind of strength than war.

paid for peace with intensified Taliban violence. Over the past five months, while Afghan security forces maintained a defensive posture, the Taliban and associated terrorist groups (which the Taliban has yet to publicly renounce) killed or wounded 12,279 Afghan security forces and civilians, according to our own figures.

We have paid with our lives — tens of thousands of Afghan lives, including even our tiniest, most precious and innocent lives.

We have paid the costs. There must now be a dividend of peace for the Afghan people.

Now, despite the violence, Afghans are coming to the negotiating table with renewed momentum for peace, a stronger relationship between the government and citizens, a better sense of coordination with our international partners, and unity among our political leaders.

Assurances will no longer be enough to propel the peace process forward. It is now time for the Taliban to sit across from the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in earnest, in order to reach a political solution and to declare a comprehensive cease fire. We acknowledge the Taliban as part of our reality, and we are solidly committed to reaching a political deal that accommodates this reality. The Taliban must, in turn, acknowledge the changed reality of today's Afghanistan. The Taliban must work with us to preserve and expand the gains the Afghan people have made over the past 19 years, including for the benefit of the thousands of Taliban

fighters, and refugees and returnees, who will need to be immediately reintegrated into society.

The international community will play an important role as facilitators and mediators of the talks, ensuring that momentum, and a level playing field, are maintained. Our international partners must also continue to stand firm for the values and principles in which we have all invested for 20 years.

The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces have not only been sacrificing to preserve and protect our country, but also in pursuit of counterterrorism objectives that we share with the United States and the international community. Our forces took over full responsibility for combat operations from foreign troops in January 2015, and since then the Afghan government has taken measures to substantially reduce the burden on U.S. taxpayers. We thank the United States and our international partners for their continued support of our security forces, which will be critical as we move forward with the peace process.

We share a vision with the United States and our international partners for the outcome of our talks with the Taliban: a sovereign, unified, democratic Afghanistan at peace with itself, the region and world, capable of preserving and expanding the gains of the past two decades.

We must all come together to achieve this vision. It will require a different kind of strength than war. It will require us to practice patience, make compromises and pay further costs toward the price of peace. But to fail in our pursuit of a sustainable peace is not an option; it would demand a far deadlier price — one that the Afghan people, and our international partners, cannot afford to pay.

Ashraf Ghani is president of Afghanistan.

Why Putin is backing Belarus' ungrateful despot

By ELI LAKE
Bloomberg Opinion

Russian President Vladimir Putin knows how to troll. In the midst of a democratic uprising in Belarus, in which thousands of citizens have taken to the streets to reject this month's stolen election, Putin offered the nation's struggling dictator his congratulations.

"I hope your state activity will facilitate mutually beneficial Russian-Belarusian relations in all areas, deepen cooperation within the Union State, and build up integration processes," he wrote in a congratulatory telegram to Alexander Lukashenko last Monday.

Putin likes autocrats, of course. But Lukashenko has gone out of his way to defy Putin in recent years. In April 2019, he expelled the Russian ambassador to Belarus, accusing him of treating his country as a Russian province. In December, he secured a \$500 million infrastructure loan from the China Development Bank. In July, his regime arrested 33 men he accused of being Russian mercenaries fomenting discord ahead of this month's election.

What makes this a master troll, however, is Putin's mention of "mutually beneficial Russian-Belarusian relations." Lukashenko has publicly rejected the Kremlin's proposal for a closer union between the two Slavic states. This year, the two countries failed to reach an agreement on crude oil exports to Belarus, dealing a blow to the

country's command-and-control economy, which relied on the revenue generated by refining Russian crude and selling it on the European market.

So what exactly is Putin up to? Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus for a quarter of a century, is in serious trouble. After he claimed victory with 80% of the vote in the election, his country erupted in protest. Demonstrations persist, despite a nationwide internet blackout. Why would Putin throw his weight behind Lukashenko now?

Daniel Fried, a former senior U.S. diplomat who is now a fellow at the Atlantic Council, says Putin's embrace of Lukashenko reflects a deeper anxiety for Russia's leader. After the democratic uprising that drove Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich into exile in 2014, Fried said, Putin cannot abide "a second democratic revolt among the three Slavic nations."

In this respect, Putin's desire to see the uprising in Belarus fail is more important than sticking it to a former client who has sought independence. If Russians see their neighbors defying a dictator, it could give them ideas about defying their own.

This dynamic also presents a challenge for Western diplomacy. On the one hand, the instinct to sanction Lukashenko and his cronies is correct. Since 2015, the U.S. has tried to reach out to Lukashenko, with modest results. He has, for example, freed political prisoners and courted Western investment.

But that Western engagement has not produced tangible results. Just watch the

coerced video of Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, the leading opposition figure who stood for election after her husband was arrested in June, disqualifying him from the election. Over the summer, she emerged as a popular alternative to Lukashenko. Last week she was forced to flee to Lithuania in part because she feared for the safety of her children.

That said, it would be a mistake to end Western engagement in Belarus altogether. The Senate is expected to confirm soon the first U.S. ambassador to Belarus in more than a decade. Some lawmakers, such as Sen. Chris Murphy, have argued that sending her to Minsk now would be normalizing relations with a democratically illegitimate dictator. Fried, however, said it would be useful to have a powerful advocate on the ground in Minsk for the rights of the Belarusian people in the aftermath of the sham election.

It's unclear what will happen next — not just with the U.S. ambassador to Belarus but with the Belarusian dictator. Whatever the result, Belarusians have made it clear that they don't want to be ruled by a mini-Putin. America and its allies should make it clear that they are ready to help turn this crisis into an opportunity for democratic transition.

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for The Daily Beast and covered national security and intelligence for The Washington Times, The New York Sun and UPJ.

OPINION

Congress has taken a break, a luxury we don't have

By DANIELLE ALLEN

Special to The Washington Post

Congress, I get it. You're tired. You wanted to go on recess. You're talking about coming back in September to finish your negotiations when you have to pass a spending bill.

Well, we're all tired — nurses and doctors and other health care workers. Public health officials. The nation's slowly growing contact-tracing team, now 50,000 strong. School principals and superintendents who are making the hardest decisions of their lives. Kids who haven't been to a birthday party in five months and face more school online. Epidemiologists and lab leaders who have been innovating their hearts out. Mayors and parents and small-business owners and on and on and on.

None of us gets to take a break from the stuff that's wearing us out. I hope you've noticed.

On Thursday, the Senate adjourned until Sept. 8. The House had already left and isn't expected back until Sept. 14. But House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., was right when she said Wednesday that punting on negotiations until September is not OK because "people will die." More than 160,000 people have died so far. In another month, the toll will likely be at least 200,000 higher.

You have no right to take a break, Congress. Our country has not yet controlled the disease.

A bipartisan piece of legislation, the Suppress Covid-19 Act, is tied up, ready to deliver the public health outcomes we all want and need. Bipartisan groups of lawmakers — in both the Senate and House — have introduced parallel legislation to invest \$50 billion in testing and contact tracing with the goal of achieving suppression of COVID-19 cases to near-zero, so schools can open safely. The bill sends money to the states for this work, including

a bonus pool for states that form compacts to collaborate on scaled-up regional purchasing and investment in testing innovation, as Maryland has recently done.

Members of Congress need to get back to work on a deal now and make a down payment on a full relief package by passing this legislation.

We've all had a habit of hoping for a silver bullet. Some thought summer would bring relief; others focused on a vaccine. We do need a vaccine, but even in the best-case scenario, it's not likely to be more than 80% effective — more like a flu shot than the polio vaccine. Still others have lifted up therapies such as convalescent plasma. Like a vaccine, this can contribute to changing this situation, but it can't resolve it on its own.

But there is only one real silver bullet. It's called grit. This is a can-do country, and our determination to beat the disease is our ultimate weapon. We have to apply that grit by activating all modes of response.

We need to chase down the virus and eliminate it through testing and contact tracing. We also need to weaken it, with improved therapies. And we need to build defenses against it with the vaccine and face masks and six-foot social distancing.

Defend against it, weaken it and take it out of circulation. We need all three things. They all take hard work.

We are well on our way with vaccines and therapeutic advances. Where we continue to struggle most is in our approach to diagnostic testing and tracing.

The Suppress Covid-19 Act sets a goal of suppressing the disease by supporting full diversification of our testing options. This includes innovation; an expanded testing market capable of supporting both scaled-up use of rapid point-of-care tests and much faster turnaround time on conventional testing; and full implementation of testing and tracing programs by states.

In diagnostic testing, we have been too dependent on the two main commercial



labs (Quest and LabCorp) and a handful of testing platforms. But models now exist, for instance at the Broad Institute in Massachusetts, for building testing labs with nonproprietary tools. Also, genome sequencing labs, such as Ginkgo Bioworks, have figured out how to build the systems of sample collection and data accessioning necessary for them to process tests. They have received a contract from the National Institutes of Health testing "shark tank" program and are rapidly scaling up and, ultimately, these labs will have capacity to operate at millions of tests a day. They have already shared their lab and system plans with public health officials around the country. Additionally, the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority recently approved grants for innovative point-of-care tests with rapid results on high-sensitivity tests. With all this, we can elevate our supply of tests to another level.

We also have work to do organizing demand. One of the hardest parts of fighting COVID-19 is that data has to be integrated among health care systems, public health systems, labs and providers of tests. To control COVID-19 consistently, health officials need to know where positive cases are appearing.

States have been working hard to stabilize markets for testing and to implement public health systems capable of tracking the disease and responding to hot spots. This has involved intensive labor. State, local and tribal health officials are in the process of converting public health infrastructure that might be analogized to a network of country roads into a fully developed interstate highway system.

Their hard work is grit in action. Will Congress match them?

Danielle Allen is a political theorist at Harvard University and a contributing columnist for The Washington Post.

The effort expended to win WWII then reshaped America

By FRED ZILLIAN

Newport (R.I.) Daily News

Seventy-five years ago, Japan surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, ending World War II. In 1914, a historian and World War I broadcaster Stetson Tiedel published an oral history of the war and titled it "The Good War," winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1985. It was indeed the last of America's "good wars": clear provocation, clear enemies, clear battle lines, clear objectives, a unified nation, and — most important — a clear and satisfying victory.

There was jubilation across America, especially in midtown Manhattan in New York City, where police estimated that 2 million people celebrated. One of those people was Middletown, R.I., native George Mendonsa, a sailor on leave. Amid all the celebration and revelry, George suddenly grabbed and kissed a woman unknown to him, dental assistant Greta Zimmer Friedman, an iconic moment captured by photographer George Eisenstaedt.

In an interview in 2012, George said: "The excitement of the war bein' over, plus I had a few drinks. So when I saw the nurse I grabbed her, and I kissed her." For her part, Greta explained: "I did not see him approaching, and before I knew it I was in this nice grip."

In human terms, over 16.1 million men and women served in the U.S. armed forces.

There were 406,000 deaths — 292,000 battle deaths and 114,000 noncombat deaths — and 672,000 wounded.

Because of the opportunities and training available in the services, minorities enlisted in unusually high numbers, but prejudice and segregation remained high. In the Army, Blacks were given generally noncombat roles; in the Navy, they served as cooks and servants. The American Red Cross kept plasma separated for Blacks and whites, with a touch of irony as the process for storing plasma was invented by a Black physician, Charles Drew.

Despite these handicaps, more than one million African American men and women served during the war. Included in these were the Tuskegee army, the first Black military aviators in the Army Air Corps. Over two years, they flew over 15,000 sorties in Europe and North Africa, earning over 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses.

The war had tremendous impacts on our country on many levels. Economically, the Gross National Product shot up from \$91 billion annually to \$166 billion. The war put a definitive end to the Great Depression of the 1930s. New industries, such as synthetic rubber, were created, and others, such as electronics, were greatly boosted.

The federal government became larger and more complex, centralizing more power and extending its reach into American life, a process begun in World War I.

Internationally, the United States now

became the world's greatest power, soon to be labeled a superpower, accentuated by our vast production capabilities, our untouched homeland, and our monopoly of atomic weapons. While France and the United Kingdom were on the winning side, they were devastated and exhausted from six years of war. The Soviet Union, our other major ally, had lost 26 million military and civilians.

Close to home, long before the U.S. entered the war, the Naval War College was preparing for it, specifically, how to wage war against Japan. During the interwar period (1919-1941), naval officers war-gamed the many scenarios of such a war and refined the Navy's war plan against it — War Plan Orange. When war came, the Navy was well-prepared for all contingencies.

After the war concluded, Adm. Chester Nimitz said that every tactic used by Japan, except for the kamikaze attacks, had been anticipated and planned for.

Naval Station Newport, of course, was a very busy place during the war. About 150,000 sailors trained there. On Goat and Gould islands, thousands of torpedoes were made by the Torpedo Station. At Melville in Portsmouth, sailors — including future President John F. Kennedy — underwent PT boat training.

In 1943, 15-year-old Nora Silva, sister of three brothers serving in the military, saw a notice on a school bulletin board at

Durfee High School, Fall River, Mass. The Torpedo Station was seeking workers. In an interview for the Newport Daily News in 2016, she related her story. "It was the war. They needed help." Hired in June 1943, she had three different jobs before the war ended: nuts and bolts, explosives, and finally office work.

Every Friday night, she and her friends would stay in Newport and go dancing at the local USO club. Sailors were everywhere.

I am sure that one of the songs she danced to many times was "Moonlight Serenade," a song released in 1939 that became the signature song of the Glenn Miller Band.

I stand at your gate and the song that I sing is of moonlight/I stand and I wait for the touch of your hand in the June night/The roses are sighing a moonlight serenade.

In 1942, Glenn Miller, 38 years old, chose to leave his successful civilian career as bandleader and volunteer for military service, eventually forming a 50-piece military band. On Dec. 15, 1944, Miller was flying from England to Paris when his airplane disappeared over the English Channel.

He once said: "America means freedom and there's no expression of freedom quite so sincere as music."

Fred Zillian, a retired Army officer, is an adjunct professor of history and politics at Salve Regina University in Newport and a regular Newport Daily News columnist.

NHL

Scoreboard

Stanley Cup playoffs

FIRST ROUND
Best-of-seven; x-if necessary
EASTERN CONFERENCE
At Toronto
(1) Philadelphia 1, (7) Montreal 1
 Philadelphia 1, Montreal 1
 Montreal 6, Philadelphia 0
Sunday, Game 3 (AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m.)
Monday CET: 9 a.m. Monday (JKT)
Tuesday, Aug. 18: Game 5
Wednesday, Aug. 19: Game 6
Friday, Aug. 21: Game 7
x-Sunday, Aug. 23: Game 7
(2) Tampa Bay 2, Columbus 1
 Tampa Bay 2, Columbus 1
 Columbus 3, Tampa Bay 1
 Saturday: Tampa Bay 3, Columbus 2
Monday, Game 4 (AFN-Sports2, 9 p.m.)
Monday CET: 4 a.m. Tuesday (JKT)
x-Wednesday, Aug. 19: Game 5
Friday, Aug. 21: Game 6
x-Saturday, Aug. 22: Game 7
(6) N.Y. Islanders 2, (3) Washington 0
 N.Y. Islanders 4, Washington 2
 N.Y. Islanders 5, Washington 2
Sunday, Game 3 (AFN-Atlantic, 6 p.m.)
Sunday CET: 1 a.m. Monday (JKT)
Tuesday, Aug. 18: Game 4
x-Thursday, Aug. 20: Game 5
x-Saturday, Aug. 22: Game 6
Sunday, Aug. 23: Game 7
(4) Boston 2, (6) Carolina 1
 Boston 4, Carolina 3
 Carolina 3, Boston 2
Sunday, Game 3 (AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m.)
Tuesday CET: 9 a.m. Tuesday (JKT)
Wednesday, Aug. 19: Game 5
x-Thursday, Aug. 20: Game 6
x-Sunday, Aug. 23: Game 7
WESTERN CONFERENCE
At Edmonton
(1) Vegas 3, (8) Chicago 0
 Vegas 4, Chicago 1
 Vegas 4, Chicago 3, OT
Saturday: Vegas 2, Chicago 1
Sunday, Game 4
x-Tuesday, Aug. 18: Game 5
Thursday, Aug. 20: Game 6
x-Saturday, Aug. 22: Game 7
(2) Colorado 2, (7) Arizona 1
 Colorado 3, Arizona 0
Saturday, Arizona 4, Colorado 2
Monday, Game 4 (AFN-Sports2, 11:30 p.m. Monday CET: 6:30 a.m. Tuesday (JKT))
Wednesday, Aug. 19: Game 5
Friday, Aug. 21: Game 6
x-Sunday, Aug. 23: Game 7
(6) Calgary 2, (1) Dallas 1
 Calgary 3, Dallas 2
 Dallas 5, Calgary 4
Sunday, Game 4 (AFN-Sports2, 8 p.m.)
Sunday CET: 3 a.m. Monday (JKT)
Tuesday, Aug. 18: Game 5
x-Thursday, Aug. 20: Game 6
x-Saturday, Aug. 22: Game 7
(5) Vancouver 2, (4) St. Louis 0
 Vancouver 5, St. Louis 2
Sunday, Game 3 (Joined in progress, AFN-Sports2, 5 a.m. Monday CET: Noon Monday (JKT))
Monday, Game 4 (AFN-Sports2, 4:30 a.m. Monday CET: 11:30 a.m. Tuesday (JKT))
x-Wednesday, Aug. 19: Game 5
Friday, Aug. 21: Game 6
x-Sunday, Aug. 23: Game 7

Golden Knights 2, Blackhawks 1

Vegas 1, Chicago 1
First Period—1, Vegas, Karlsson 2 (Stone), 4:12 (sh).
Second Period—2, Vegas, Brown 1 (Schmidt, Tuch), 15:23.
Third Period—3, Chicago, Maatta 3 (Kane, Cagigiula), 6:21.
Power-play opportunities—Vegas 0 of 3; Chicago 4 of 4.
Goalies—Vegas, Fleury 2-0-0 (27 shots); Chicago, Crawford 3-3-1 (26-24).
A=0 (18,641). T=2-20.

Lightning 3, Blue Jackets 2

Tampa Bay 3, Columbus 2
First Period—1, Tampa Bay, Killorn 2 (Creirill, Bogosian), 15:48.
Second Period—2, Columbus, Nash 1 (Nyquist), 1:49, 3, Tampa Bay, Point 4 (Kucherov, McDonough), 14:15, 4, Tampa Bay, Hedman 1 (Pouquette, Verhaeghe), 18:53.
Third Period—5, Columbus, Robinson 1 (Nash, Wennberg), 1:37.
Shots on Goal—Tampa Bay 8-16-10-34; Columbus 10-4-3-17.
Power-play opportunities—Tampa Bay 0 of 1; Columbus 0 of 4.
Goalies—Tampa Bay, Vasilevsky 4-2-0 (17 shots-15 saves); Columbus, Korpisalo 3-2-1 (34-31).
A=0 (18,819). T=2-26.

Coyotes 4, Avalanche 2

Colorado 0 1 1-2
Arizona 1 1 1-2-4
First Period—1, Arizona, Stepan 1 (Kellier, Hall), 6:29.
Second Period—2, Colorado, Burakovsky 3 (Girard, 13:12, 3, Arizona, Richardson 7 (Garland, Demers), 19:26.
Third Period—4, Arizona, Hall 2, 18:40 (en), 5, Colorado, Rantanen 2 (MacKinnon, Makar), 19:03, 6, Arizona, Crouse 2 (Soderberg, Demers), 19:55 (en).
Shots on Goal—Colorado 20-16-15-51; Arizona 12-5-6-23.
Power-play opportunities—Colorado 0 of 3; Arizona 0 of 3.
Goalies—Colorado, Francouz 1-1-0 (21 shots-19 saves); Arizona, Kuemper 4-3-0 (51-49).
A=0 (18,641). T=2-30.

Bruins 3, Hurricanes 1

Boston 0 1 2-3
Carolina 0 0 1-1
First Period—1, Boston, Coyile 2 (Marchand, Krejci), 0:14 (pp).
Second Period—2, Boston, Kuraly 1 (Coyile, McAvoy), 1:16 (sh), 3, Carolina, Niederreiter 1, 6:30 (pp), 4, Boston, Marchand 2 (Krejci), 19:23 (en).
Shots on Goal—Boston 7-20-12-39; Carolina 15-6-7-30.
Power-play opportunities—Boston 1 of 5; Carolina 1 of 5.
Goalies—Boston, Halaak 0-1-0 (30 shots-29 saves); Carolina, Mrazek 2-0-1 (38-28).
A=0 (18,819). T=2-35.



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Lightning center Brayden Point, center, celebrates his goal with teammates Barclay Goodrow, left, and Erik Cernak as Blue Jackets center Alexander Wennberg skates away.



CHRIS YOUNG, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The Bruins' Sean Kuraly, left, scores his team's second goal on Carolina Hurricanes goaltender Petr Mrazek during Saturday's Eastern Conference Stanley Cup playoff game in Toronto.

Roundup

Bruins go up 2-1 on Hurricanes

Associated Press

TORONTO — Jaroslav Halak stopped 29 shots after goalie Tuukka Rask opted out of the NHL playoffs and Charlie Coyle had a goal and assist to help the Boston Bruins beat the Carolina Hurricanes 3-1 on Saturday for a 2-1 series lead.

Rask's absence was announced Saturday morning and it did not seem to rattle the defending Eastern Conference champions later in the day.

Game 4 is Monday night, when fifth-seeded Carolina may be without Andrei Svechnikov against fourth-seeded Boston. The 20-year-old Russian forward was injured late in the game when his right leg buckled after getting tied up with Bruins defender Zdeno Chara in front of the net.

Sean Kuraly and Brad Marchand added goals for Boston. Nino Niederreiter scored for the Hurricanes.

Boston was without star David Pastrnak for a second straight game due to an undisclosed ailment.

Lightning 3, Blue Jackets 2:

At Toronto, Andrei Vasilevsky made 16 saves and Tampa Bay beat Columbus to take a 2-1 series lead.

Alex Killorn, Brayden Point and Victor Hedman scored, and the Lightning held off a late 6-on-5 push by the Blue Jackets.

Riley Nash and Eric Robinson scored for Columbus and Jonas Korpisalo made 31 stops after piling up 121 saves in the first two games of the series, including a five-overtime loss Tuesday night.

Tampa Bay outshot the Blue Jackets 34-17, including 16-4 in the second period.

Game 4 is Monday.

Golden Knights 2, Blackhawks

11 Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 26 shots and Vegas held off Chicago to take a 3-0 lead in the series at Edmonton, Alberta.

William Karlsson and Patrick Brown scored for the Golden Knights. Vegas is 6-0 in the postseason, having also won all three of its round-robin games in the preliminary round to take the No. 1 seed in the Western

Conference.

With Games 3 and 4 on back-to-back nights, Vegas coach Peter DeBoer opted to start Fleury instead of Robin Lehner, who is 4-0 with a 2.39 goals-against average this postseason.

Coyotes 4, Avalanche 2: At Edmonton, Darcy Kuemper stopped 49 shots and Arizona beat Colorado to cut the Avalanche's series lead to 2-1.

The Coyotes took the early lead on Derek Stepan's first-period goal, then spent most of the day counterpunching against Colorado's relentless pressure.

Andrei Burakovsky tied it in the second period during one Avalanche flurry, but Brad Richardson put Arizona up 2-1 in the closing seconds.

Kuemper took made a series of difficult saves in the third period and Taylor Hall scored on an empty net, seemingly sealing it.

Mikko Rantanen gave the Avalanche life, following Hall's goal by scoring with 1:03 left. Lawson Crouse finally put it out of reach with an empty-net goal.

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MLB

Braves end skid behind Duvall's HR in 9th

BY STEVEN WINE
Associated Press

MIAMI — Max Fried hit the corners, and Adam Duvall hit the foul pole.

The combination helped the Atlanta Braves break a four-game losing streak by beating the first-place Miami Marlins 2-1 Saturday.

Fried pitched 6 1/3 shutout innings, lowering his ERA to 1.24. Duvall broke a tie by golfing his 100th career homer, which caromed off the left-field pole with one out in the ninth.

"With the skid we had going, it was good to scrape that out," Duvall said. "I'd like to start hitting them a little bit straighter. That was like a 9-in run draw. I just caught enough there."

Fried was in line for his fourth victory until Monte Harrison hit his first major league homer leading off the eighth against Will Smith for a 1-all tie.

"It's a great moment, but we didn't win the game," Harrison said, "so it doesn't really mean much to me right now."

The Braves regained the lead

when Duvall lunged at an outside pitch from Brandon Kintzler (1-1) and pulled it down the line.

Marcell Ozuna produced the game's first run when he led off the seventh with his fifth homer off Daniel Castano, making only his second major league start.

Fried, who allowed four hits and struck out seven, again pitched like an ace for the injury-plagued Braves.

"He's like all good pitchers — they have a plan for every ball they throw," manager Brian Snitker said. "I feel so good with him on the mound. It's fun to watch. He has a chance to be really good for a long time."

The left-hander allowed at least one runner in each of the first three innings, but then had a stretch where he struck out six of seven batters.

"I just wanted to go out there and keep it simple, eat as many innings as I could and hopefully start a nice little winning streak," Fried said.

The Braves' other starters are 0-8, but thanks to Fried, Atlanta trails Miami by only one game in the NL East.



Atlanta Braves' Adam Duvall reacts after scoring on his ninth-inning solo home run during the Braves' 2-1 win Saturday at Miami.

LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Roundup

Beliebers: Indians top Tigers for 19th straight time

Associated Press

DETROIT — Shane Bieber struck out 11 in seven scoreless innings, and the Cleveland Indians beat the Detroit Tigers 3-1 on Saturday.

It was the Indians' 19th straight win over the Tigers, the longest streak against one opponent since the Baltimore Orioles beat the Kansas City Royals 23 times in a row in 1969.

Bieber (4-0) allowed three hits and a walk and lowered his ERA to 1.30 in five starts this season. He fanned the side in the third and fourth and added two more in the fifth.

Nick Wittgren pitched a perfect eighth. JaCoby Jones made it 3-1 with a pinch-hit double in the ninth before Brad Hand finished for his fifth save.

Spencer Turnbull (2-1) gave up three runs on six hits and four walks in 4 1/3 innings.

Dodgers 6, Angels 5 (10): Chris Taylor scored on Max Muncy's sacrifice fly in the 10th inning, and the Dodgers rallied to beat the host Angels for their season-high fourth consecutive victory.

Mookie Betts hit a tying homer in the seventh and drove in three runs for the NL West-leading Dodgers, who also got three RBIs from Muncy while improving to 9-2 on the road this season.

Mike Trout homered and drove in three runs for the Angels, who have lost three straight and six of eight after dropping the first two in the Freeway Series.

Astros 2, Mariners 1: Rookie Cristian Javier allowed one hit over six shutout innings, Yuli



PAUL SANCI/AP

Cleveland Indians pitcher Shane Bieber had 11 strikeouts and allowed three hits over seven scoreless innings in a 3-1 defeat of the Detroit Tigers on Saturday in Detroit. He improved to 4-0.

Gurriel homered and host Houston edged Seattle for its third straight win.

Javier (2-1) struck out five and walked three. He retired 10 of the first 12 batters before Kyle Seager walked and a single by Austin Nola accounted for the Mariners' only hit off the rookie in the fifth.

Gurriel extended the Astros' lead to 2-0 in the fourth with a solo home run. Jose Altuve gave the team a 1-0 lead in the second on an RBI groundout, scoring Yordan Alvarez.

Orioles 7, Nationals 3: Baltimore struck early against lefty Patrick Corbin and got a home run from Rio Ruiz in a victory over hitting Washington.

Light-hitting Andrew Velazquez had two hits, scored twice and drove in a run for Baltimore, which has won seven of eight — a

streak that includes four victories against the Nationals.

Corbin (2-1) was roughed up by the Orioles, who built a 4-0 lead in the second inning and held on. He allowed five runs and eight hits with just two strikeouts in five innings.

Juan Soto and Trea Turner homered for Washington, which closed to 5-3 in the sixth but couldn't complete the comeback.

Athletics 7, Giants 6: Mark Canha hit a go-ahead, three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning and Oakland rallied late for the second straight game, slugging to a win at San Francisco.

Marcus Semien hit a two-run homer and Matt Olson also connected for the A's, who won for the 12th time in 14 games.

Darin Ruf put the Giants ahead 6-3 with a three-run shot in the

seventh before the bullpen squandered it again.

Twins 4-2, Royals 1-4: Whit Merrifield had three hits, including a three-run homer, to back Danny Duffy's strong start as Kansas City took the second game of a doubleheader and earned a split with host Minnesota.

Duffy (1-2) allowed two runs — one earned — on two hits in five innings. He struck out eight for the Royals, who have won six of their past eight games, including a home sweep of the Twins last week.

Trevor Rosenthal issued a leadoff walk in the seventh but struck out the next three batters for his fifth save.

Nelson Cruz homered in both games of the doubleheader and now has 407 career home runs, tying Duke Snider for 56th on the all-time list. Cruz had a pair of hits in the first game.

Diamondbacks 7, Padres 6: Speedy San Diego pinch runner Jorge Mateo was thrown out at the plate trying to score from first base on a single to end the game and Arizona held off the host Padres.

San Diego nearly completed a late rally after trailing 7-1. The Padres scored twice in the eighth, then scored three times in the ninth.

Rangers 6, Rockies 4: Kyle Gibson pitched into the seventh inning for his first win with Texas and newly signed Derek Dietrich hit a two-out, three-run home run in the eighth as the visiting Rangers won their fourth straight.

Shinn-Soo Choo had three hits and two RBIs and Jose Trevino also had three hits for Texas,

which ensured its third straight series win.

Brewers 6, Cubs 5 (10): Avisail Garcia doubled home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning and visiting Milwaukee handed Chicago its first two-game losing streak this season. Garcia doubled to deep right off Jeremy Jeffress (1-1) to score automatic runner Christian Yelich from second base to start the 10th. Luis Urias reached on an infield single for an additional run.

Cardinals 5-6, White Sox 1-3: Paul Goldschmidt and Tyler O'Neill homered, and visiting St. Louis completed a doubleheader sweep in the Cardinals' long-awaited return from a coronavirus outbreak.

Playing for the first time since July 29, St. Louis used solid performances by Dexter Fowler and Adam Wainwright to post a victory in Game 1. Then it battered the White Sox bullpen in the second seven-inning game.

The reigning NL Central champions improved to 4-3 with the sweep. Every other team in the majors had played at least 13 games coming into the day.

Phillies 6, Mets 2: Rhys Hoskins hit a three-RBI double, Jean Segura hit a solo homer and Aaron Nola tossed seven scoreless innings to lead host Philadelphia past New York for the second straight game.

Hoskins broke the game open in the fifth with a shot to right-center off Steven Matz (0-4) that cleared the bases and gave the Phillies a 5-0 lead. Nola (2-1) tossed three-hit ball and struck out eight over his seven innings.

NBA PLAYOFFS



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

Dallas forward Luka Dončić, left, who led the league in triple-doubles with 17, will make his NBA postseason debut when the Mavericks face off with the No. 2 Clippers.

Playoff indoctrination

Mavs' Dončić to get his first taste of NBA's postseason

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Luka Dončić would like to clear up a bit of a misconception: He has playoff experience.

Then again, he also knows what awaits now is different.

For the first time since 1990, the Dallas Mavericks are going to the playoffs without Dirk Nowitzki on the roster. The German great retired after last season, officially passing the torch as leader of the Mavs to Dončić — the Slovene who nearly averaged a 30-point triple-double in just his second NBA season.

So, no, he hasn't seen what the NBA playoffs are like. There's also no reason to think Dončić isn't ready for this stage.

"Yes, it is the playoffs, but I have been in the playoffs before, just in Europe," said the 21-year-old Dončić, who was still a teenager when he led Real Madrid to the EuroLeague title and was basically considered the best player in that league two years ago. "It is not the same level, but it is the same emotion. I am excited for sure."

Dončić finished the season averaging 28.8 points, 9.4 rebounds and 8.8 assists. The only other players who posted those numbers for a full season are Oscar Robertson, who did it four times, and Russell Westbrook.

He led the NBA with 17 triple-doubles. He was an All-Star for the first time who will likely be many times. He was one of two players — reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks was the only other — to have season-highs of at least 20 rebounds and 15 assists.

"He's a phenomenal player and he's getting better," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "Like, by the hour. By the day."

Dončić's first playoff series won't be any cakewalk. The seventh-seeded Mavericks open the Western Conference postseason against the second-seeded Los Angeles Clippers, a team that features reigning Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard.

The Clippers have legitimate title aspirations — but they also speak with obvious

respect for Dončić.

"Luka is going to be a handful," Clippers guard Lou Williams said. "Dallas plays extremely hard. We just saw these guys last week. Well-coached team. When they're on the court, they're all going to play hard. It will be highly entertaining, a lot of talented guys on the floor."

The Clippers have some of the best defensive players in the NBA: Leonard, Paul George and Patrick Beverley among them.

Dončić's offensive gifts — and there are many — are obviously a major factor why Dallas scores with such ease. Carlisle played with Larry Bird. He coached Jason Kidd. He knows elite passing and orchestrating when he sees it, and he's not afraid to put Dončić in their class.

"He knows where everybody is, not only on offense, but defense," Carlisle said.

That's the sign, you know, a savant-type guy. ... Larry Bird, he could see everything like that. Jason Kidd, he could see everything like that. Luka's in that same mold. He's just got a different body type, got a different kind of game, but when he draws the attention, you know somebody's going to get a wide-open shot."

Case in point: The Pass.

That's all that needs to be said in the NBA's restart bubble, just "the pass," and it's pretty clear which one is being referenced. Dončić turned in one of the quintessential moments of the seeding games when he offered a perfect bounce pass to Maxi Kleber for a dunk in overtime of a close game against the Milwaukee Bucks.

Dončić fired the bounce pass between his legs, and if that wasn't enough, he threatened it between two of the Bucks' best defenders.

—Eric Bledsoe and defensive player of the year candidate Giannis Antetokounmpo.

"That's just who he is," Mavs forward Kristaps Porzingis said. "He can make those incredible plays."

And now Dončić gets the chance to make those plays on the NBA's best stage: The playoffs.

"He's wired for big moments," Carlisle said. "He'll be fine."

Eastern Conference matchups

No. 1 Bucks (56-17) vs. No. 8 Magic (33-40)

Season series: Bucks, 4-0

Story line: Here they go again — reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Bucks have the best record in the NBA for the second consecutive season and enter the first round against an opponent that they dominated in four meetings. Out of the 192 minutes of basketball between the clubs this season, the Magic led for 11 of them. The Magic know they have nothing to lose.

Key matchup: Antetokounmpo vs. Nikola Vucevic. The MVP won't be guarded 1-on-1 by Vucevic often, if at all, but Orlando's best rim protector is going to have to do quite a job against the NBA's leader in points in the paint if the Magic are going to make this interesting.

Prediction: Bucks in 5.

No. 2 Raptors (53-19) vs. No. 7 Nets (33-37)

Season series: Raptors, 3-1.

Story line: The defending NBA champion Raptors lost Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard, lost starter Danny Green, and put together the best regular-season record in franchise history any way. The Nets are missing Kevin Durant, who got hurt against the Raptors in last year's finals with Golden State, Kyrie Irving and plenty of others, yet have played extremely hard for Jacques Vaughn. In the last eight regular-season meetings between these two teams (dating back to last season), the Toronto Raptors are 6-2 with six of those games being decided by 10 points or less.

Key matchup: Kyle Lowry vs. Chris LeVert. Lowry is as good a defensive player as there is in the NBA and will be one of the Raptors tasked with not letting LeVert get on a big scoring roll. The Nets will be playing a loose brand of basketball, knowing that almost nobody would expect them to win the series.

Prediction: Raptors in 5.

Western Conference matchups

No. 1 Lakers (52-19) vs. No. 8 Blazers (36-39)

Season series: Lakers, 2-1.

Story line: With LeBron James leading the league in assists in his second season in Los Angeles and Anthony Davis the beneficiary of many of them in his first, the Lakers rolled to the best record in the West and their first playoff appearance since 2013. They finally learned their opponent Saturday when Portland beat Memphis to win the NBA's first play-in spot.

Key matchup: James or Davis vs. Carmelo Anthony. Anthony hit some clutch shots during the restart and has a chance to win a playoff series for the first time since 2013.

But he'll have to show he can defend a likely first team All-NBA selection to stay on the floor, a lot to ask at 36.

Prediction: Lakers in 6.

No. 2 Clippers (49-23) vs. No. 7 Mavs (43-32)

Season series: Clippers, 3-0.

Story line: Kawhi Leonard carried Toronto to its first NBA title last year and will look to bring Los Angeles its first now, backed by league superstar Paul George and perhaps the league's deepest roster.

The Clippers will be tested defensively by Luka Dončić, Kristaps Porzingis and a dangerous Dallas offense.

Key matchup: Leonard, George and Patrick Beverley vs. Dončić. Dončić led the NBA in triple-doubles this season so he can hurt teams in a number of ways. But the Clippers can rotate multiple defenders in hopes of slowing down the point guard.

Prediction: Clippers in 5.

No. 3 Celtics (48-24) vs. No. 6 76ers (43-30)

Season series: 76ers, 3-1.

Story line: Pay no attention to that season series result. It came with Ben Simmons and Joel Embiid playing. Simmons is out with a knee injury and Embiid hasn't looked right for much of his time at Disney, so these are not the same 76ers that the Celtics saw in the regular season. But it is a rivalry matchup.

Key matchup: Jayson Tatum vs. Tobias Harris. Tatum is becoming an absolute star in the league, standing out on a Boston roster that already has plenty of talent. But Harris is strong, smart on the defensive end is going to have to take on more of a leadership role with Simmons out and Embiid clearly laboring.

Prediction: Celtics in 5.

No. 4 Pacers (45-28) vs. No. 5 Heat (44-29)

Season series: Heat, 3-1.

Story line: These teams met in three consecutive postseasons during Miami's Big 3 era, with the Heat winning them all in 2012, 2013 and 2014 to thwart an Indiana squad that was one of the best in the league at that time and never broke through. Not having Domantas Sabonis will be a tough break for Indiana at both ends, and Miami has as good a corps of 3-point shooters as anyone in the league. And without Sabonis, the chore of guarding All-Star Heat center Bam Adebayo falls almost solely to Myles Turner now.

Key matchup: Jimmy Butler vs. TJ Warren. It's not solely because of their little war of words back in January, either. Butler's first postseason series with the Heat is a chance for him to put his stamp on playoffs. Warren has a big opportunity at Disney — more shots, mainly — and largely has taken advantage of it at this point.

Prediction: Heat in 6.

—Associated Press

No. 3 Nuggets (46-27) vs. No. 6 Jazz (44-28)

Season series: Nuggets, 3-0.

Story line: The Northwest Division rivals seem evenly matched, as seen when they played a double-overtime thriller during the seeding games that the Nuggets won 134-132. Denver's three victories were by a total of 11 points, including a dramatic double OT victory in Jamal Murray's "bubble" debut and the famous "We all got game" when Denver won in Salt Lake City despite suiting up just seven players.

Key matchup: Nikola Jokic vs. Rudy Gobert. Jokic is perhaps the best all-around center in the NBA and Gobert, the two-time Defensive Player of the Year, remains a stopper in the middle. But with Jokic able to handle the ball so well and shoot from so far, he is a tough cover for traditional big men, used to playing in the paint.

Prediction: Nuggets in 7.

No. 4 Rockets (44-28) vs. No. 5 Thunder (44-21)

Season series: Thunder, 2-1.

Story line: The trade of Russell Westbrook to Houston last summer for Chris Paul and multiple first-round picks was thought to signal a rebuild in Oklahoma City. Instead, Paul had a terrific season in leading the Thunder to the same record as the Rockets, who don't know when Westbrook will be available because of a right quadriceps injury.

Key matchup: Westbrook vs. Paul. It was Paul's injury in the 2018 Western Conference finals against Golden State that helped cost the Rockets a chance to reach the NBA Finals. Now Houston has to hope Westbrook not only returns soon, but also with the explosiveness that made him a perennial All-Star.

Prediction: Rockets in 7. —Associated Press

NBA PLAYOFFS

Scoreboard

NBA Playoffs

All games in Orlando, Fla.

FIRST ROUND

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

Eastern Conference

Milwaukee vs. Orlando

Tuesday: Milwaukee vs. Orlando

Thursday: Milwaukee vs. Orlando

Saturday: Milwaukee vs. Orlando

Monday: Milwaukee vs. Orlando

x-Friday: Milwaukee vs. Orlando

x-Sunday: Milwaukee vs. Orlando

Toronto vs. Brooklyn

Monday: Toronto vs. Brooklyn

Wednesday: Toronto vs. Brooklyn

Friday: Toronto vs. Brooklyn

Sunday: Toronto vs. Brooklyn

x-Tuesday: Toronto vs. Brooklyn

x-Thursday: Toronto vs. Brooklyn

x-Saturday: Toronto vs. Brooklyn

Boston vs. Philadelphia

Monday: Boston vs. Philadelphia

Wednesday: Boston vs. Philadelphia

Friday: Boston vs. Philadelphia

Sunday: Boston vs. Philadelphia

x-Tuesday: Boston vs. Philadelphia

x-Thursday: Boston vs. Philadelphia

x-Saturday: Boston vs. Philadelphia

Miami vs. Indiana

Tuesday: Miami vs. Indiana

Thursday: Miami vs. Indiana

Saturday: Miami vs. Indiana

Monday: Miami vs. Indiana

x-Wednesday: Miami vs. Indiana

x-Friday: Miami vs. Indiana

x-Sunday: Miami vs. Indiana

Western Conference

L.A. Lakers vs. Portland

Tuesday: L.A. Lakers vs. Portland

Thursday: L.A. Lakers vs. Portland

Saturday: L.A. Lakers vs. Portland

Monday: L.A. Lakers vs. Portland

x-Wednesday: L.A. Lakers vs. Portland

x-Friday: L.A. Lakers vs. Portland

x-Sunday: L.A. Lakers vs. Portland

L.A. Clippers vs. Dallas

Monday: L.A. Clippers vs. Dallas

Wednesday: L.A. Clippers vs. Dallas

Friday: L.A. Clippers vs. Dallas

Sunday: L.A. Clippers vs. Dallas

x-Tuesday: L.A. Clippers vs. Dallas

x-Thursday: L.A. Clippers vs. Dallas

x-Saturday: L.A. Clippers vs. Dallas

Denver vs. Utah

Monday: Denver vs. Utah

Wednesday: Denver vs. Utah

Friday: Denver vs. Utah

Sunday: Denver vs. Utah

x-Tuesday: Denver vs. Utah

x-Thursday: Denver vs. Utah

x-Saturday: Denver vs. Utah

Memphis City vs. Houston

Tuesday: Oklahoma City vs. Houston

Thursday: Oklahoma City vs. Houston

Saturday: Oklahoma City vs. Houston

Monday: Oklahoma City vs. Houston

x-Wednesday: Oklahoma City vs. Houston

x-Friday: Oklahoma City vs. Houston

x-Sunday: Oklahoma City vs. Houston

Saturday

Blazers 126, Grizzlies 122

MEMPHIS — Anderson 4-6 1-1 10, Tolliver 2-4 2-2 7, Valanciunas 8-14 3-5 22, Brooks 7-18 2-3 20, Morant 13-28 6-8 35, Clarke 8-11 0-0 20, Deng 1-2 0-0 6, Allen 2-3 1-2 3, Melton 1-4 0-0 3. Totals: 45-92 18-22 122.

PORTLAND — Anthony 5-15 10-10 21, Collins 1-2 0-0 3, Nurke 8-14 4-9 22, Lillard 6-15 14-14 31, McCollum 11-19 4-4 29, Gabriel 1-3 0-0 3, Trent Jr. 3-6 1-2 8, Hezonilla 2-4 2-2 5, Whiteside 2-6 0-0 4. Totals: 38-84 35-41 126.

Memphis 19 33 33 42 126

Portland 11 27 31 27 87

Three-Point Goals—Memphis 14-25 (Brooks 4-5, Clarke 4-5, Morant 3-6, Tolliver 1-2, Valanciunas 0-4), Portland 15-40 (Lillard 5-14, McCollum 3-7, Nurke 2-3, Gabriel 1-3, Trent Jr. 1-3, Hezonilla 1-4, Anthony 1-6). Fouled Out—Memphis 1 (Tolliver), Portland None. Rebounds—Memphis 37 (Morant 12, Brooks 12), Portland 39 (Nurke 21). Assists—Memphis 30 (Anderson 9), Portland 20 (Lillard 10). Total Fouls—Memphis 25, Portland 19.

Leaders

FG

Harden, HOU 61 603 619 2096 34.4
Beal, WAS 57 593 385 1741 30.5
Brooks, MEM 57 593 385 1741 30.5
Young, ATL 56 546 481 1778 29.6
Lillard, POR 56 541 389 1677 29.9

Rebound

Drummond, CLE 52 524 625 869 14.2
Whiteside, POR 61 244 625 869 14.2
Antetokounmpo, MIL 60 546 635 783 13.7
Gobert, MIN 62 211 639 890 13.7
Sabonis, IND 62 189 582 771 12.4

Assists

James, LAL 60 637 106
Lillard, POR 57 593 385 1741 30.5
Rubio, PHX 57 507 89
Doncic, DAL 54 470 87
Simmons, PHI 54 442 82

Blazers make playoffs, oust Grizzlies

Portland wins play-in game, will face Lakers

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.

— A fourth consecutive down-to-the-wire finish, a fourth consecutive win for the Portland Trail Blazers.

They needed all that just to get into the playoffs.

Damian Lillard scored 31 points, CJ McCollum had 14 of his 29 in the fourth quarter—including a pair of big jumpers over Ja Morant late—and the Blazers clinched the NBA's final play-off spot by beating the Memphis Grizzlies 126-122 on Saturday.

Portland's reward: a matchup with the top-seeded Los Angeles Lakers, starting Tuesday. Jusuf Nurkic had 22 points and 21 rebounds for the winners, who got 21 points from Carmelo Anthony. "What we've done in these two weeks is really special," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "I couldn't be more proud of a group of guys because we were up against it every game, nine straight games where our season was basically in the balance. ... They found a way."

Morant scored 35 for Memphis, which got a 22-point, 16-rebound day from Jonas Valanciunas and 20 points apiece from Dillon Brooks and Brandon Clarke.

It was the start, and the end, of the Western Conference play-in series—a wrinkle the NBA added to the restarted season because the coronavirus pandemic meant no team would play its allotted 82 games. Portland finished eighth in the West, Memphis was ninth, and the Grizzlies needed to sweep a two-game matchup to advance.

They had a chance, up eight in the final quarter, before Portland did what Portland does in the bubble—pull games all at the end.



KEVIN C. COX/AP

Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard was unanimously selected as the top player of the NBA's seeding games after averaging a league-best 37.6 points in the eight games. Lillard had 31 points in Portland's 126-122 play-in win over the Memphis Grizzlies on Saturday.

blaze — pull games all at the end. The Blazers' last four wins have come by a combined 11 points.

So they go on, and Memphis goes home—knowing its potential is very real.

"I'm going to be able to sleep

and live well during the summer, despite a tough loss, knowing that we put in so much work and we were that close to getting into the playoffs," Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said. "These guys, the first words they said when we got

Lillard Bubble MVP, Williams top coach

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.

— Portland's Damian Lillard has been unanimously selected as the top player of the NBA's seeding games at Walt Disney World, after averaging a league-best 37.6 points in the eight games.

Phoenix's Monty Williams, who led the Suns to a perfect 8-0 record in the bubble, was chosen as the top coach of the seeding-game schedule.

Joining Lillard on the first team for games played at Disney between July 30 and Friday's end of the seeding-game season was Phoenix's Devin Booker, Indiana's T.J. Warren, Dallas' Luka Doncic and Houston's James Harden.

Booker was second in the Bubble MVP race, with Warren third.

Second-team selections were Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo, the Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard, Brooklyn's Caris LeVert, Denver's Michael Porter Jr. and Dallas' Kristaps Porzingis.

— Associated Press

in the locker room was, 'We've got a lot of work to do.'"

Nurkic, playing with a heavy heart because of his grandmother's death, grabbed an offensive rebound and wound up converting a three-point play with 2:39 left to put Portland on top for good.

McCollum — playing with a fracture in his back — connected on a three-pointer and another long jumper late, both times guarded by Morant, to ensure Portland kept the lead, and Anthony's three-pointer with 20.2 seconds left was the last big shot the Blazers needed.

Chasing: Lowry, Raptors not content with one title

“We’re the same exact team. ... We’re just trying to win every single game. That’s what we’ve always done.”

Kyle Lowry

Toronto Raptors point guard

FROM BACK PAGE

NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard and fellow starter Danny Green in free agency last summer — to the best regular-season record in their franchise's history. It's something few would have thought was possible given that sort of roster turnover. He was an All-Star for the sixth consecutive season. He earned All-NBA and All-Defensive Team votes; the league has yet to announce the makeup of those squads.

Lowry averaged 19.7 points, 7.5 assists and 5.0 rebounds per game this season. The only other players in NBA history, at his age or older, to do that over a full year are LeBron James and Larry Bird. "It's good the ultimate respect from me and our franchise, to keep on competing every single year and then finally get over the mountaintop last year," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I think he's a big winner in this league. He competes so hard ... diving around, taking charges, throwing his body into the fray, all of it to try to help his team win."

The numbers prove all that. For the second time in three years, Lowry — listed at 6-foot-1 and 196 pounds, which means he's half a foot shorter and 30 pounds

smaller than the average NBA player — led the league in charges drawn. He takes them in preseason games. He takes them in scrimmages. He takes them in All-Star Games.

Raptors coach Nick Nurse still cringes a little when Lowry tries things like stepping in front of James, the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James and Larry Bird.

"He knows how to do it just right," Nurse said. "He usually bounces up."

It's just one of the many ways that Lowry sets the example for the Raptors. He's far from their lone star: Pascal Siakam is an All-Star and rising name in the league, Marc Gasol is the veteran big man who fits perfectly in Toronto's scheme, Fred VanVleet the super-tough wing.

But Lowry runs the show.

He's the point guard, the quarterback, the coach on the floor, the locker-room voice when one is required. He also is the face of the franchise, the player who has been through the ups and downs in Toronto — from annual playoff disappointments to an epic championship parade.

Nurse said the Raptors never were swayed by preseason notions that, with Leonard gone, the champions would fall off the cliff of NBA relevance. He didn't have to worry about it, either; the Raptors were 17-5 last year without Leonard, and Nurse knew that Lowry wouldn't allow the room to slip.

The roster is different, sure, but the mission is the same.

"We're the same exact team," Lowry said. "We play hard. We go out there and we defend. We've got pros. We're just trying to win every single game. That's what we've always done."

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NBA PLAYOFFS



Back for seconds

Raptors PG Lowry spent 13 seasons chasing his first title — now he wants another

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
Associated Press

Kyle Lowry spent 13 years chasing an NBA championship before finally getting the ring. His career is closer to the end than the beginning. He's made his money. His jersey will sway from rafters in Toronto

one day. He'll be a candidate for the Basketball Hall of Fame a few years after retiring.

It begs the question: What's left?
Lowry's answer is succinct: More.

Getting that first NBA title last season finally satisfied one quest for the Raptors' point guard — but also whetted his appetite for another one. So now the defending champions are returning to the NBA playoffs, with their on-court leader determined to win the whole thing

once again.

"That feeling is unmatched," Lowry said. "Other than my children being born, I don't think I've had a feeling like that, ever. And that's the motivation to keep doing that."

He's shown all season that the fire is real, too.

Now 34 years old, Lowry led the Raptors — who lost

SEE CHASING ON PAGE 23

Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry secured his place in franchise history last season when he helped lead the team to its first NBA championship in his 13th professional season. Now 34 years old, and without the help of superstar forward and 2019 Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard, Lowry has the Raptors poised to contend for another title.

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Miocic cements legacy, defeats Cormier » MMA, Page 18

